



INDIAN SOCIETY OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION & IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY

National Organization on Blood Transfusion Medicine, Blood Banking & Donor Motivation

#1410, Sector 16-17, Hisar (Hry.) 125005 INDIA
+917015415343

01662-245343,

President

Dr. Yudhbir Singh, IAS

www.isbti.org

info@isbti.org

Secretary General

Dr. Sangeeta Pathak

Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting of ISBTI held on **8th September 2020 at 2:30 p.m.** through Video- Conferencing (google meet).

Governing Body Meeting of ISBTI was held under the chairmanship of Dr Yudhbir Singh President of the society. The meeting was attended by the following:

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| 1. Dr T. R. Raina | Deputy President (Motivational) |
| 2. Dr Sangeeta Pathak | Secretary General, ISBTI |
| 3. Dr Mohit Chowdhry | Treasurer ISBTI |
| 4. Dr Purushotam Paliwal | Chairperson North Zonal Council |
| 5. Dr. Nidhi Bhatnagar | Chairman- ISBTI Gujarat Chapter |
| 6. Dr. Meena Thapa | Chairman- ISBTI J&K Chapter |
| 7. Dr. Subhash | Chairman- Tamil Nadu State Chapter |
| 8. Dr. Sikandar Hyat | Chairman- ISBTI Andhra State Chapter |
| 9. Dr Kusum Thakur | Chairman-ISBTI Punjab Chapter |
| 10. Dr. Chiranjit Noatia | Chairman-ISBTI Tripura Chapter |
| 11. Dr Manvir Singh | Joint- Treasurer, ISBTI |
| 12. Dr M.P. Singh | Secretary – ISBTI, Punjab |
| 13. Dr. Danial Joshua | Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Chapter |
| 14. Sh. S.L. Pachar | Editor, Jai Raktdata |

Dr Yudhbir Singh President ISBTI welcomed all the members of the Governing Body and members of Organising committee Trascon-2020. He said, although there are lot of issues to be discussed but most important point is “how to hold the transcon – 2020 and what are the views of all the members in this regard”

The President handed over the proceedings to Dr Sangeeta Pathak, Secretary General to further discuss the agenda points.

Dr. Sangeeta Pathak formally welcomed all the members present in the meeting and started with agenda of the meeting. Dr. Pathak asked Dr. Joshua and Dr. Subhash, the members of organizing committee – transcon 2020 about their

preparedness. She said, we would like to discuss the point no. 8 first and then go ahead with other issue.

Dr. Joshua on behalf of organizing committee told that due to pandemic it would not be possible to hold the Transcon-2020 in traditional way, so it is better to conduct Transcon-2020 on virtual platform. He further said that few other international conferences are being held on virtual platform. Dr. Joshua said that being the first time a lot of input would be required from senior members of the society. All the members approved the proposal for holding Transcon 2020 on virtual platform. Dr. Pathak requested Dr. Joshua to share more details. President said that let them do some spade work regarding this. He said that Dr. Joshua and Dr. Subhash have to work day in and day out to host the conference. He further said that there would be a central committee to be headed by Dr. Sangeeta Pathak, General Secretary. Dr. Sangeeta would be choosing her own team. The proposal to appoint central committee was unanimously approved. Dr. Sangeeta Pathak asked Dr. Joshua about the probable dates for holding the virtual conference. President stressed upon the idea of holding conference in December as ISBTI is the only organization in the country which has held its annual conferences without break. Dr. Joshua said that as ISBT conference is being organized in the month of December itself, it would be better to hold the conference at least after a month i.e. in the second week of January 2021. All the members gave their nod in principal to organize the conference in January, 2021 and it was decided that local committee of Tamilnadu state chapter would be working, they would be taking all the inputs and talking to members of the organizing committee and in turn convey their decision for dates to us. As conference has already moved to next year it can even be held in last week of January or first week of February. It should be done with full ease and in an exceptionally fine manner. Secretary General said that we would be locking dates for January after finally hearing from organizing committee. About duration of conference it was suggested that minimum 2 days are required. Dr. Mohit suggested it's better to have the conference on weekend. All the members endorsed his suggestion and finally it was decided to hold the conference in the

month of January on a weekend. Secretary General suggested that it can be 2.5 days on a weekend as it used to be earlier. As it would be first virtual conference in India for transfusion medicine, so there should not be any paucity of funds/sponsors. Secretary General said that Dr. Nidhi and Dr. Mohit are very good in IT, so they can be of great help in formulating the finer details for the conference. Dr. Mohit Chowdhary suggested to have a road map before proceeding with the preparations. He said everything should be planned in advance and move accordingly.

All the members present in the meeting appreciated the initiative taken and efforts made by Dr Mohit Chowdhry.

1. Approval of the minutes of the last GBM held at 12:30 PM on 27th September, 2019 at Punjab Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Jalandhar. (Minutes of previous meeting attached as Annexure 1).
 - a. Each agenda item of last Governing Body Meeting held on 27.12.2019 was deliberated upon in detail by the members and approved unanimously.
2. To place on record the appreciation and gratitude towards COVID YODHAS.
 - a. Dr. Sangeeta Pathak informed the members about sad demise of two blood transfusion specialists. President put on record for the condolences to the bereaved families. It was decided to write to the Govt. to treat them and all other Covid Yodhas as martyrs.
 - b. It was unanimously decided to put on record the appreciation for each and everybody performing any duty related to Covid 19. President made a request to all the members to put on record their appreciation for everybody coming out of their houses leaving their families back and comes to the hospital to perform any duty. Dr. Nidhi reflected upon the selfless services provided by every one in the hospitals and blood banks

- c. Dr. Sangeeta Pathak suggested that we can request the state Govts. To provide names of persons who have done exemplary work during the pandemic and write a letter of appreciation to their families on behalf of ISBTI.
3. To place on record the positive role played and innovative efforts (including plasma therapy) being made by Blood Transfusion Specialists at All India Level during COVID 2019 pandemic.
 - a. It was suggested by members to seek record of BTS who have been involved in plasma therapy and other innovative efforts made by them.
 - b. Dr. Raina informed the members about exemplary work done by Dr. Sangeeta Pathak and how she has pioneered the plasma therapy. Dr. Nidhi said that she is a role model for all of us. Dr. Sangeeta Pathak added that Dr. Nidhi has followed in her footsteps and done exemplary work in Gujarat. Dr. Nidhi is working hard right now and deserves special appreciation for her selfless efforts. President also seconded Dr. Pathak and added that to have Dr. Nidhi in this organization is a blessing for the organization.
 - c. President said that there are many members/people whose contribution we are not aware of. He stressed upon giving recognition to all such members/people. We must convey them how we value their contribution. Everybody need be appreciated in all respects and their families also be conveyed that your family member who is member of a large family has done wonders and we are grateful that family could afford to spare his/her services during such a crucial period. We should write a letter to each and every individual and we would be requesting them to mention name of the person who matters in their family so that we can write a letter to their family. We should make a sincere effort to find each and every one who has contributed in this need of hour. A definite

action plan should be made based on observations made here and we will act accordingly.

d. Dr. Sangeeta Pathak highlighted the contribution/efforts of Dr. Mohit who happens to be the nodal officer for Covid 19 patients in Delhi. His efforts and hard work (contribution) was duly acknowledged and appreciated by all the members.

4. To delve upon future course of action of ISBTI in view of COVID 2019 pandemic.

a. It was suggested that as input is required in this regard from the members working on ground who can suggest ways and means how to go about it. To work on it what Dr. Nidhi, Dr. Mohit, Dr. Kusum Thakur, Dr. Subhash all those who are working with the patients, who are working for the hospitals they need to tell us what input is required for ISBTI. Dr. Raina said that they can think over it and communicate.

5. To dispel fears about blood donation/transfusion in wake of COVID 2019 pandemic sweeping the world.

a. It was pointed out by Secretary General that initially lot of fear was there in the mind of blood donors and they were not ready to come forward. She said there is urgent need to educate people and dispel their fears about coming to hospital to donate blood. Dr Nidhi suggested that we should design Standard Operating Procedure for organizing blood donation camp. She further said that in Gujarat we have already made some documents based on ABB and NACO guidelines. It was proposed to prepare general guidelines and put them on ISBTI website. Dr. Kusum Thakur added that they are following guidelines issued by NBTC for donor selection and blood sample collection. Dr. Kusum Thakur was requested to share it with ISBTI head office so that further work could be done on it. It was further decided to collect the whole information within 2-3 days

only so that it can be finalized and circulated to all members of ISBTI throughout the country. Dr. Meena suggested that apart from Website we should take help of electronic and print media in generating awareness and dispel fears. President, Dr. Yudhbir Singh lauded the ideas shared by Dr. Meena and asked her to share the ideas generated so far so that the collective wisdom is shared with everybody. President said that we also put on record the efforts made by Dr. Meena also.

6. To spread awareness about general hygiene and best practices for safe blood donation post COVID 2019.
 - a. Secretary general pointed out that next point goes in conjunction with previous point so all these points can be put together.
7. To encourage state chapters to come forward for creating awareness among general public especially at village and block level.
 - a. Secretary general pointed out that it is also similar in nature to points discussed already
8. To explore possibilities for conducting Transcon-2020 on 3D Virtual Platform in view of COVID 2019.
 - a. This point was taken up first of all with the permission of chair and Dr. Joshua and Dr. Subhash has already agreed to work upon it. Dr. Joshua was requested to come up with the plan as soon as possible.
9. The committee to monitor/ support the organizing committee of Transcon-2020.
 - a. It has already been decided to form a committee to be headed by Dr. Sangeeta Pathak. Dr. Pathak informed the members that she has already added Dr. Nidhi and one or two more members to the committee, and she will be adding more members upon hearing from Dr. Joshua.
10. Committee for bringing out a book on the achievements of the Society.

- a. Secretary general sought view of all the members for bringing a book on the achievement of the Society.
- b. President informed the members that Blood Society Chandigarh has already published a book and she gave few copies to ISBTI at Jalandhar conference. It was only after going through this book that a seed was sown to bring up a book. President emphasized that there is no other society in India which has witnessed a phenomenal growth and achieved so many milestones ISBTI has achieved. There is no other society in the country which has held its annual conferences in such a disciplined manner. The book will highlight the history, achievements, milestones achieved by the society and throw a light on its glorious _____. We should be able to incorporate the achievements of each member of the society. Dr. Nidhi suggested that a timeline should be decided. President proposed that a committee should be formed for this purpose and responsibility should be given accordingly. Dr. Kusum Thakur suggested that State Chapters should send their achievements for the same. President added to it and said that contribution of each one should get place and honour. President suggested that Dr. Raina enjoys good rapport with lot of members so it would be better to constitute a committee in his chairmanship. The committee would be dynamic, and anybody would be free to join as member. Dr. Raina said that everybody must contribute and provide their achievement with photographs. Dr. Raina assured that we will release the book in next conference at Jammu in 2021. The president proposed to associate Dr. Shamim Sharma who has carried out encyclopedia of Haryana and has rich experience in this field with Dr. Raina. He further said that it would be the greatest contribution to the society and country at large. A searchable electronic version of the book will also be prepared and put on the website. It would be a complete project for at least one year in his

view. The President said that he would simplify the process by sharing 10 pages with everyone. It would be of great help and provide a line of action for everyone. It was proposed to prepare guidelines for the material to be submitted and based on these guidelines, a sample will be provided. Dr. Sangeeta Pathak added that material from each member should come through state chapter. First state chapter should scrutinize the material and then they can forward it to the editorial board to be constituted for this purpose.

11. Election of ISBTI's National Governing Body.

- a. The president proposed to hold elections in the same manner as it were held previously. All the members unanimously seconded his proposal.

12. Suggestions, how ISBTI can contribute in any way in this hour of need.

- a. Dr. Nidhi suggested that we have already discussed this point in detail in while taking up other points. At this point Dr. Sangeeta Pathak put a question to all the members that can we contribute in some other way to the society especially for the general public. Dr. Raina asked her to elaborate. President added that it requires a deep thought. He said that close coordination with District Administration who is overall in charge of these things is required.
- b. Dr. Meena suggested for arranging filters for thalassemic children. She gave example of J & K where only 20 out of 300 odd children can afford filters. At this point the President intervened that whatever we plan on this platform should be accessible/available to everybody in the country and right now the society doesn't have sufficient funds to provide filters at country level even for a month. He further shared that our focus should be on filling the gaps in our core field. We should work on augmenting the blood donation

which has suffered because of pandemic and for this purpose if any finances are required, the society is ready for that. If somebody comes with a specific problem in some area, we would do our best to suggest ways and means and evolve mechanism even if it involves finances.

13. Any other point with the permission of the chair.

- a. Approval of forms sent by state chapters. Dr. Meena told that she is having 14 membership forms which are to be approved. The president informed that we approve all the forms received so far and whatever issues are there at state level can be sorted out by state chapter. Dr. Nidhi also has 46 membership forms. Everybody applauded her for this. She in turn conveyed the happiness of new members on receiving membership certificate online.
- b. The president spoke about celebration of National Voluntary Blood Day on 1st October. He said that it would be an excellent opportunity for state chapters to contribute and whatever agenda points we discussed about the contribution our society can make to the society at large. He made a clarion call that in these times, we should really contribute and convey our commitment that this society has different type of individual there. We need to request each and everybody. A letter would also be circulated to each and every member and we would be requesting them to show their best in life so that whatever we have discussed that would be done on the ground and subsequently based on the experience they have on 1st October we can plan things further. He further stressed that we should keep generating new ideas and based on those ideas the collective wisdom that is generated should be utilized for the larger interest of the nation. He further said that 1st October should be celebrated as a real festival. Everybody at their works place should wear new clothes and it should be a real feast. The resources for

feast can be generated locally or even we can contribute for the same. They must have feast in all respects including their learnings. A flow of energy should be there.

Secretary General thanked all the members for taking out their precious time to attend the meeting. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Dr. Sangeeta Pathak
Secretary General