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From the Secretarial Desk

It is a matter of great honour and proud privilege to lead this great Indian Society of Neuroanaesthesiologists and Critical Care (ISNACC). We respect the responsibility laid on our shoulders by the senior members of the Society. We sincerely believe that with your support, we will be able to bring remarkable changes in the Society.

To begin with, we have now given a new look to our website. It’s more informative! With your constructive suggestions and criticism, we hope to improve it further. ‘Synapse’ is another way of reaching our members and sharing information. This newsletter from the Secretariat will be published every 6 months. We encourage participation of all the centers practicing neuroanesthesia by sharing their activities with us. We would be happy to make announcements on your behalf and help you reach to larger audience. Publication of journal from our Society has always remained a cherished dream and we hope to bring it alive soon. Our target for the upcoming year is to launch the journal as early as possible. It would have to be a team-work once again. We solicit your cooperation in lending us suggestions and ideas.

It was felt that formation of committees would be essential for smooth functioning of the Society. Soon we will be completing this task and involving senior and experienced members of our Society to expand our horizons. Matters relating to the constitution, education, finance, overseas affairs, members benevolent funds and also legal issues would be dealt in a systematic and refined manner. Should you be finding yourself suitable in any of these arenas, do not hesitate to contact us and give us your inputs and suggestions.

We are pleased to inform you that our Society is affiliated to the Asian Society of Neuroanaesthesia and Critical Care (ASNACC). We aim to take measures that may allow our members to become ASNACC members as well!

With continuing support and guidance from senior members, we hope to make a mark in the International arena and expand ourselves beyond the natural boundaries.

The mission of our Society is to achieve highest standards in the practice of neuroanaesthesia and critical care. We propose to start more fellowships programmes in the country. We must all pledge to make ISNACC a centre for excellence in research and high standard care of neurologically impaired patients.

We now give you this opportunity to explore our website and frequent this column for updates.

It is said that well begun is half done and well done is better than well said.

We truly believe in actions speaking louder than words!

Sincerely!

Hemanshu Prabhakar (Secretary)
Girija Prasad Rath (Treasurer)
Presidential Address

The Indian Society of Neuroanaesthesiology and Critical Care (ISNACC) established in 1999 has grown and blossomed into the present dynamic society; thanks to the efforts of a small group of dedicated Neuroanaesthesiologists. Several academic and scientific achievements have been made over a span of 13 years.

We welcome more and more young Neuroanaesthesiologists to join the society and aid in its progress. The subject of Neuroanaesthesia is now popular all over India due to relentless efforts of the society. Outright priority is being given to education and research. The achievers are being awarded by the society. We have stepped into the international arena with great confidence. This is an ongoing process and I invite one and all to be an active part of the challenge.

The ISNAAC website started in 2008 has now successfully completed five years and which is renewed recently. I congratulate Dr.Hemanshu Prabhakar and Dr.Girija Prasad Rath for starting the online newsletter 'Synapse' which will be useful for one and all.

Dilip Kumar Kulkarni
Professor
Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences
Hyderabad
Minutes of the 13th Annual ISNACC Conference Bhopal

At the Jehan Numa Palace Hotel of Bhopal, the 13th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Neuroanaesthesiology and Critical Care (ISNACC - 2012) was organized on February 8 - 10, 2012, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rajnish Jain; Dr. R P Kaushal being the Organizing Secretary. More than 200 registrants participated in this meeting. On first day, the CME programme began with a lecture in relation to cerebral vasospasm following aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage. The speaker was Dr. P K Bithal from KFMC, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). The other speakers of the morning session included Dr. V. Bhadrinarayan (NIMHANS, Bangalore), Dr. H K Venkatesh (BGS Global Hospital, Bangalore) and Dr. L D Mishra (BHU, Varanasi). The highlight of the session was Dr. Malathi Oration on ‘Neuroanaesthesia: History and the future’ delivered by Dr. Monica S Vavilala (USA). The post-lunch began with a workshop on “Advance haemodynamic monitoring in neuroanaesthesia” by Dr. Hetal Shah (Mumbai). This was followed by various lectures the speakers being Dr. Yoram Shapira (Israel), Dr. Deepak Sharma (USA), Dr. Antoun Koht (USA), Dr. Dilip Kulkarni, (NIMS, Hyderabad), Dr. V Satyanarayana (SVIMS, Tirupati), and Dr. G S Umamaheswara Rao (NIMHANS, Bangalore).

In the evening, a formal inauguration ceremony was organised in presence of dignitaries on stage such as Dr. Ajay Mehta (Vice-President, Madhya Pradesh Jan Abhiyan Parishad) as Chief Guest and Dr. SC Tiwari (Director, Medical Education, Madhya Pradesh) as Guest of Honor. Other dignitaries on the dais included Dr. Dilip Kulkarni, Dr. Rajnish Jain, Dr. R P Kaushal, Dr. Aditya Agarwal, and Dr. H K Venkatesh. The CME Book was released by the Chief Guest and the occasion was followed by cultural programme and dinner.

On second day, the lectures were delivered by Dr. Monica S Tandon (GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi), Dr. Kavita Sandhu (Max Superspeciality Hospital, New Delhi), Dr. G Parameswara (Manipal Hospital, Bangalore), Dr. Surendra Singh (SGPGI, Lucknow), Dr. Hetal Shah, Dr. Pinakin Gujjar (Mumbai), Dr. R S Chouhan (AIIMS, New Delhi) Dr. Devendra Gupta (SGPGI, Lucknow) Dr. Shashi Srivastava (SGPGI, Lucknow), and Dr. Anurag Yadav (Bhopal). Prof. G R Gode Oration which was delivered by Dr. H H Dash (AIIMS, New Delhi). He spoke on the researches that changed the practice of neuroanaesthesia in last 25 years.  The General Body Meeting (GBM) was held in the evening. It was attended by the delegates with great enthusiasm who came up with various suggestions to expand the activities of our Society. At the end of GBM, the secretary announced names of newly appointed office-bearers of ISNACC.
Minutes of the 13th Annual ISNACC Conference Bhopal

The third day scientific programme included lectures by various speakers in the morning session such as Dr. G S Umamaheswara Rao (NIMHANS, Bangalore), Dr. S Manikandan (SCTIMST, Trivandrum), Dr. Jitendra Garg (Bhopal), Dr. Smita Sharma (Mumbai), and Dr. M Srilata (NIMS, Hyderabad). Prof Hariwir Singh Oration was delivered by Dr. Anil Parakh (Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai) who spoke on “Some histories, some controversies” in relation to Neuroanaesthesia. During post-lunch session, the speakers were Dr. Shobha Purohit (SMS Medical College, Jaipur), Dr. Anju Grewal (Ludhiana), Dr. T Prabhakar (Etawah), Dr. Rajshree Deopujari (Mumbai), and Dr. Sanjith (Mumbai).

A poster session was arranged over all three days whereas the platform presentation of free papers was organized on morning sessions of 2nd and 3rd days. A number of scientific papers were presented by delegates mostly from India. During the valedictory function, prizes were distributed for the best presentations during poster and free paper sessions. The organisers thanked the delegates for their active participation during the conference. The meeting ended with cheers and applause for the hosts by the delegates.

Girija Prasad Rath
Associate Professor
Neuroanaesthesiology
AIIMS, New Delhi
Report of the Education Committee

Realizing the role that it should play in promoting educational activity in the field of Neuroanaesthesia, the Indian Society of Neuroanaesthesiology and Critical Care (ISNACC) appointed the Education Committee of the ISNACC during its annual conference held at Hyderabad in Feb 2008.

The members nominated to the committee were:
1. Dr. HH Dash, Prof and HOD Department of Neuroanaesthesia, AIIMS, New Delhi
2. Dr. RC Rathod, Prof and HOD Department of Anaesthesia, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram
3. Dr. G.S. Umamaheswara Rao, Prof of Neuroanaesthesia, NIMHANS, Bangalore
4. Dr. Grace Korula, Professor, Department of Anaesthesia, CMC, Vellore
5. Dr. Bibhu Kalyani Das, Professor and Head, Department of Neuroanaesthesia, BINS, Kolkata

Terms of Reference:
1. To identify the educational needs of Neuroanaesthesia in the country
2. To suggest different courses that may be undertaken
3. To suggest the curriculum for each of these courses
4. To suggest the infrastructural needs of each course
5. To define the structure of the courses and entry and exit criteria for each course
6. To identify the measures to ensure uniformity of standard of each course

The committee, after collecting the opinion of many anaesthesiologists through an E-mail survey and also giving consideration for varied requirements of different clinical and educational requirements at various levels, came to the conclusion that a single pattern of education will not suffice and different courses with different course objectives are required.

Depending on their individual infrastructures, statutory privileges and institutional goals, individual organizations may opt for the relevant courses. This would ensure that the standards of training for any given course will be uniform throughout the country.

At least three different pathways have been suggested.
1. A one-year course (which may be called Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuroanaesthesia)
2. A two-year DNB course in Neuroanaesthesia
3. A three-year DM Course in Neuroanaesthesia

To date, 2 institutions received approval for fellowship courses from the ISNACC. These institutions are the Fortis Hospital, NOIDA and BGS Global Hospital, Bangalore. Two students were awarded ISNACC–recognized Post Doctoral Fellowship in Neuroanaesthesia during the annual conference at Bhopal in Feb 2012.

The committee is pursuing its efforts to encourage various institutions to take up different courses pertinent to their infrastructural facilities. In the long term, it is envisaged that the qualification for a faculty position in Neuroanaesthesia should be redefined, once a critical mass of trained manpower is developed.

GS Umamaheswara Rao
Sr. Prof. Neuroanaesthesia
NIMHANS, Bengaluru
Beyond the Boundaries

Representation of ISNACC in International Forum

Euroneuro 2012, 16 – 18th Feb, Vienna, Austria

AIIMS, New Delhi
- Girija P Rath * presented his paper titled ‘Effects of pregabalin on postoperative pain and preoperative anxiety in patients undergoing lumbar discectomy’
- Hemanshu Prabhakar * presented papers titled ‘Comparison of effects of different anaesthetic techniques on Electrocorticography in patients undergoing epilepsy surgery’ and ‘Coagulation effects of combination of mannitol and 0.9% normal saline or hydroxyethyl starch in neurosurgical patients’

PGI Chandigarh
- Ishwar Bhukal presented his paper titled ‘The time course of osmolality and electrolyte changes during prolonged mannitol therapy in conservative management of traumatic brain injury.’
- Nidhi Panda presented her paper on ‘Dexmedetomidine – an ideal anesthetic adjuvant in cervical spine surgery’
- Neerja Bharti presented her paper on Airway management in patients with immobilized cervical spine: a comparison with MacIntosh, MacCoy and TruView laryngoscopes.
- Hemant Bhagat presented papers titled ‘Does morphine prolong emergence in neurosurgical patients?’ and ‘Comparative trial of propofol, sevoflurane and desflurane as a choice of anaesthesia in patients undergoing elective supratentorial craniotomy’

80th AANS Annual meet, Miami, Florida, 14–18 April 2012.

Max Hospital, Saket, New Delhi
- Virendra Jain presented poster on ‘Management of Acinetobacter Ventriculitis: A novel way using Omaya reservoir’

15th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists, Buenos Aires, 25 – 30th March 2012

AIIMS, New Delhi
- H H Dash delivered a lecture on ‘Management of cranio-facial pain’

BHU, Varanasi
- LD Mishra * delivered four lectures on ‘Controversies in neuroanaesthesia’, ‘Recovery and discharge criteria in day-case surgery’, ‘Role of acute pain service and methods to economise it: Indian perspective’, and ‘Anaesthesiologists as perioperative physician’

* Received ISNACC Travel Grant
Messages!

“I would like to thank ISNACC and my HOD, Dr Mary Abraham, who gave me the opportunity to join the first fellowship course recognized by the society. It gave me an opportunity to pursue my interest in neuroanaesthesiology & neurocritical care and improve my skills as a neuroanaesthesiologist both in the operation theatre and neurointensive care.”

“It was great to work under Dr Mary Abraham. The emphasis was on the basics of Neuroanaesthesia and the safety of the patient. We also looked after the neurosurgical ICU and gave anaesthesia for neurointerventional procedures. Over all a great enlightening experience about the art of neuroanaesthesia. Thanks to ISNACC and Dr Mary Abarham for providing me the opportunity to get this fellowship.”

Ashima Malhotra
Junior Consultant
Fortis Hospital, NOIDA

Vikas Chawla
Junior Consultant
Fortis Hospital, NOIDA
Announcements

- This June, Charu Mahajan and B Kiran Reddy successfully completed their DM (Neuro-Anaesthesiology) course from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

- Prof. H H Dash has taken voluntary retirement from AIIMS and has now joined Fortis Hospital, Gurgaon as Director (Anaesthesia Services).

The 14th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Neuroanaesthesiology and Critical Care (ISNACC - 2013) is at Varanasi (BHU) from February 8 - 10, 2013.
Announcements

Travel/ Visit Grant
ISNACC provides Travel/ Visit Grant to suitable candidates to either visit one of the premier Neurosciences (Neuroanaesthesiology) Centers abroad or to present scientific paper(s) in an International forum. A fixed sum of Rs.20,000/- will be awarded to two candidates who must fulfill the following criteria –

1. Should be a life-member for more than a year at the time of application.
2. He/she should not have availed the grant from ISNACC in previous 2 years.

Application form may be downloaded from the website (www.isnacc.org).
Contact Secretariat for assistance (Email: isnaccsecretariat@yahoo.in).

Research Grant
ISNACC awards research grant to suitable candidates to carry out clinical research in the field of Neuroanaesthesia and Neurocritical Care in India. A fixed sum of Rs.20,000/- will be awarded to candidates who fulfill the following criteria –

1. Should be a life-member for more than a year at the time of application.
2. He/she should not have availed the grant from ISNACC in previous 2 years
3. Should provide a copy of Ethics Committee approval
4. Financial assistance from other sources must be disclosed
5. Should present the results of the research in the Annual conference of ISNACC in the same year as completion of study.
6. Should acknowledge ISNACC as the funding source if the paper is sent for publication in a journal.
Save the Date!

14th National Conference & CME of Indian Society of Neuroanaesthesiology & Critical Care

February 8 to 10, 2013

Organized by
Department of Anaesthesiology
Institute of Medical Sciences
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
Varanasi 221005, India

ISNACC-2013
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Acknowledgement

- GS Umamaheswara Rao (Bengaluru)
- Kanchan Jagger (Mumbai)
- Smita Sharma (Mumbai)
- S Manikandan (Thiruvananthapuram)
- Hemant Bhagat (Chandigarh)
- Monica Tandon (New Delhi)
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