

Asian Society of Mastology (ASOMA)

Minutes of the GBM

Minutes of the General body meeting held on 6th November 2022 3PM in Hall B , the venue as announced earlier at 3pm.

The quorum not being complete , President and CEO announced reconvening once the Quorum is complete.

Started at 3:15 pm, when quorum was reached

Attendees: This physical Meeting was well attended by office bearers ,executive body members and ASOMA members

Agenda -1: Welcome address and meeting called to order

ASOMA CEO, Dr Uttam Soni started the meeting by welcoming everyone to the General body meeting of ASOMA and then handing it over to the honorable president Prof Chintamani

1. Dr Chintamani initiated by calling the meeting to order and welcoming all the members again.
2. He made a brief presentation sharing the detailed history and background of Asian Society of Mastology including inception, journey from AOP to a Registered charitable trust including founding principles ,byelaws, the initial delays and difficulties encountered by the body to get registered and the present status. It was also explained as to how this delay affected in turn many activities of ASOMA including expansion of executive and membership drive.
 - a. The Founder President mentioned that launching of ASOMA was inspired by EUROMA conference held at Oman and the first conceptual meeting at Singapore which was facilitated by Dr Felicia Tan in Singapore where some founding members congregated to conceptualize and form this unique and first Asian body
 - b. Based on the prior experience with other bodies , the group decided to include all specialists, breast nurses etc. that contribute to breast cancer management, rather than only the surgeons making this endeavour unique .
 - c. Other subsequent meetings happened at Maldives, AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS BBSR, BALCO(Raipur) & now at Jaipur. There was no so called “zero year” ever including the Covid time when a hugely successful and first of its kind virtual meeting was organized and international bodies like American College of Surgeons(India chapter), ESSO, UK bodies ,“Central European consortium on breast cancer”, Egyptian society, etc. joined the meeting.
 - d. There was a need to get the body registered, in order to open the bank account to enable financial and other transactions.
 - e. There were challenges in getting this international body registered, and the process appeared very cumbersome and could not be completed at Kolkata.

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Delhi was then considered as an alternative, already nearly **four years** had elapsed meanwhile.

- f. An AOP account had been opened and managed at Kolkatta in order to deal with day to day functioning. [***One member pointed out after looking at the previous account of ASOMA with the name as “Association of mastology”, and asked whether that is the name of the body in Bank accounts***]. This was clarified by showing the audited ASOMA account of 2020 & 2021 which are in the name of ***Asian Society of Mastology***. The members asked regarding this discrepancy and were briefed about the initial issues with registration at Kolkatta, the anomaly however is resolved now with the body getting finally registered as ***Asian Society of Mastology [ASOMA welfare trust]***. The entire process has got streamlined only in last two years and we are growing now. Before we spread thin, we must consolidate the core of the body for effective academic growth.
- g. Finally, with the expert advise of other administrative officials, it got registered as a trust, as there was an embargo on registration of associations or society besides being a longer process at that time. This was seconded by other members, namely Dr Piyush and Dr Uttam Soni.
- h. From a small number of members (around 100) we have rapidly grown to the current strength that stands at more than 270, thanks to this effort at getting it registered and making the process of membership smooth and less cumbersome and many having registered during the current conference.
- i. All the members of the previous AOP have been contacted/will be contacted to merge with this body without any membership fees as the details of their membership were not available. This would also help in preparing the membership/voting list for future, the process has been initiated.

Agenda -2: Approval of minutes of last AGM held at Raipur. : Minutes were approved -proposed by Dr Sandeep Kumar and seconded by Dr Pooja Ramakant

Agenda – 3 Activities of ASOMA, Newsletter and proposed journal– Dr Piyush shared with the house the progress made on the next issue of Newsletter and **the** President Dr Chintamani highlighted the importance of the body having its own mouth piece journal. Members unanimously applauded the effort and the endeavor, The editorial board of the News letter would be further expanded and eventually this would take the shape of the ASOMA journal.

Agenda -4 : Presentation of accounts –Audited ASOMA Accounts for 2021 were presented by Dr Piyush and Dr Uttam Soni. The accounts were unanimously approved, Prof Chintamani also updated the team that based on the sound advice from Chartered accountants, it has been decided not to merge the previous AOPs and the current accounts, lest there should be tax liabilities. President shared with the members that Dr Diptendra Sarkar, Hony Secretary had texted him the audited accounts of the previous AOP bank account and other details and that whether the funds may be used for paying off the pending fellowships and awards. Dr Chintamani thanked Dr Sarkar

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and highlighted that this matter rests .He then proceeded with the agenda to discuss the most suitable way to close the initial AOP account. Dr Piyush presented the CA findings of this audited AOP and other accounts. Several challenges and recommendations were discussed related to the same

- a. Dr Sandeep Kumar's suggestion was to close out the previous AOP, with the resolution from all the stakeholders and donate the earnings to ASOMA, which is now a non-profit making registered trust. ASOMA then will have income tax liabilities, which it can pay. The tax liability of ASOMA will be based on its earnings from 3 major sources – membership fees, amount remaining from an ASOMA meeting/webinar, Calcutta AOP donation
- b. Dr Chintamani suggested an alternate solution that was also suggested by Dr Sarkar in his text and also based on the recommendations from ASOMA Chartered accountant , where the AOP amount can be spent sponsoring the fellowship program of students, that were eligible but couldn't be sponsored in the past year(s). Dr Sandeep concurred and seconded the possibility to keep the old AOP account alive to fund the fellowship program.
- c. **The house unanimously resolved not to merge the previous AOP account at Kolkatta with the present ASOMA account for two reasons 1. The AOP account was opened with a different name for the body (Association of Mastology) 2. It will incur tax liability on ASOMA and the account may thus be utilized to pay off the pending fellowships . It was also decided to merge the membership of all existing members without any additional registration fee to avoid confusion. The membership would be asked to send complete details and declaring that they had paid the registration to streamline for all future endeavours of the Society.**
- d. The team also briefly touched upon the Raipur conference expenditure, where there was a projection of deficit of **44 lakhs**. It was decided to send a mail to the organizers to send the audited accounts once again mentioning the losses separately. The ASOMA office Secretary Dr Piyush was given the task and Dr Soni , CEO recommended and it was decided to sign an MOU in all future conferences to avoid ambiguity and confusion.
- e. Dr Sandeep Kumar, Dr Anurag Srivastava and the other members recommended and the house decided on fixing **20% of the registration money** as the revenue for the parent body each time an annual conference or CME is held . The registration fee must be accounted for separately from any boarding/lodging cost for an event. There was also a decision to fix the registration fee as Rs 2000 for the next couple of years and also sign an MOU with each organizing body to have transparency on the body owing 20% of the total registration fees to the parent body.

Agenda- 5: ASOMA Congress 2023 - Further on, the possible venues of the 2023 conference were discussed, with the contenders being Muscat, Hong Kong, Himalayan Institute

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(proposed by Dr Saini). Dr Chintamani opined Himalayan Institute to be the ideal choice, in terms of infrastructure and cost. Dr Chintamani mentioned that we have been doing our best to adjust our ASOMA meetings according to the other associations in order to avoid overlap. Members from the house were a little concerned about some office bearers and executive committee members missing out ASOMA in favour of other local bodies. The loyalty to ASOMA should be our priority and we should select our best dates rather than going out of the way and accommodating everyone. The members also asked if the leave of absence was applied by the EC members that are regularly missing the GBM and ASOMA conference. President replied to this by mentioning that we should be all inclusive but we will take care to keep our priorities. Dr Chintamani also clarified that we welcome all academics anywhere and everywhere and no one should be bound by being a member of ASOMA. Everyone is free to attend any meeting entirely based on his/her priorities and academic interest. This goes without saying that office bearers and executive members have a slightly greater accountability to promote ASOMA and loyalty to a cause is a part of an individual conscience and character. However it was unanimously decided to replace the sleeping EC members and office bearers after sending an appropriate mail seeking reasons for missing out attending various EC/GB/Scientific programme meetings and annual conferences of ASOMA. The members insisted that all discussions must happen in the EC and GB meetings so attendance by EC members/ office bearers should be mandatory and a leave of absence should be mandatory if one has a pressing reason to miss out.

Agenda -6 : Academic endeavors so far and future activities President shared a few achievements of ASOMA and also suggestions that are in the pipeline

- a. President complimented Dr Neerja Gupta for having organized the Phyllodes with distinguished speakers, which received very good response.
 - b. Dr Anurag Srivastava and others helped put together the ASOMA guidelines in Indian Journal Of Surgery, which is a journal that has a global reach
 - c. He credited Dr Piyush and his editorial team to have published 4 issues of the ASOMA newsletter, the latest one being unveiled in Dehradun. Dehradun chapter also hosted a live operative workshop and a full day of academic sessions
 - d. All the annual conferences have been conducted regularly, even a virtual one during the COVID times, which was a huge success.
2. Moving on, the future academic pursuits were discussed, where the fellowship programs will continue, with the winner of the poster presentation competition being nominated for an international opportunity while the second in line will be given an opportunity within the country, focused on a particular function like oncoplasty etc. Other related decisions were
- a. The fellowships will be limited to 10 – 30 days for a single procedure like sentinel biopsy, oncoplasty
 - b. Opportunities should be provided given to the McH students rather than MS, in order to ensure that it is offered to those who benefit the most

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- c. MS students to be considered for general fellowship programs in breast etc, in order to enable exposure for them as well
 - d. Essentially, 3 tiers of fellowships were identified – dedicated, semi- dedicated and general fellowships – one nomination from each category
 - e. The funding amount was fixed at Rs 80,000 for international fellowship and Rs 40,000 for national fellowship, with the hospitality, boarding and lodging being managed by the host institution.
 - f. Moscow was highlighted as a very good option for any future fellowship program
 - g. Dr Chintamani also suggested that for fellowship eligibility one has to attend at least one ASOMAcn and three CME's
- Post that, the various trials that Dr Anurag is interested in sharing were discussed.
 - Dr Anurag proposed the use of fluorescence in sentinel node as the first trial. He will work to design the program.
 - Level I to III vs level I and II Axillary dissection to safeguard the arm lymphatics was discussed.
 - Dr Neerja then suggested to have a multicenter trial for Phylloides -
 - Dr Chintamani assigned her to be the lead for this, under the guidance of Dr Anurag.
 - He also urged her to work with others to prepare the guidelines to get the historical data of the patients and trials conducted in various medical institutions and then publish her analysis/observations/recommendations in a journal of national eminence.
 - Dr Chintamani further encouraged holding webinars on various topics. Dr Neerja signed up to conduct the first webinar on Quality assurance -in January
 - Dr Chintamani insisted on all activities being conducted by the members to be advertised and tagged as an “ASOMA initiative” so that ASOMA gets the needed leverage.
 - Establishments from Karnal, Meerut, Panipat, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Junagadh have also requested for a CME, which ASOMA is considering

Agenda -7: Membership updating, elections and expanding the executive committee – Hony Secretary /CEO /HQ Secretary, ASOMA

Dr Chintamani then recommended that **Dr Anshika Arora, Dr Manjula Rao**, be nominated to be the members of the executive committee of ASOMA. This was approved unanimously. These members have shown keen interest in being a part of the ASOMA executive committee. They are also very active and academically keen on contributing to the growth of the mission that is ASOMA. Dr Chintamani further went on to share that there is a plan for democratizing the selection process to

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some of the key positions. Dr Uttam Soni, the CEO and Dr Piyush Ranjan (ASOMA HQ Secretary) were given the responsibility asked to finalize the membership directory with the relevant details. The CEO Dr Uttam Soni along with office ASOMA Secretary were given the responsibility to prepare the **member voter list by next GBM** in order to plan the expansion of some executive positions in future by election/nomination. This would however require massive exercise including getting the performas of memberships filled all over again getting complete details from earlier members and merger of the memberships.

Agenda -8: Proposal for ASOMA oration 2023 The topic of ASOMA oration

2023 was the next topic on the agenda. Dr Chintamani requested the team to provide their recommendations on the speaker of eminence. Dr Amit Goyal, Dr Robert Manson, Dr Sudeep Gupta, Dr Vani were mentioned to consider. The final speaker will be decided after due consideration, including their availability to attend the event physically. Dr Prashant's name was suggested for the keynote speaker for 2023. Further on, the possible venues of the 2023 conference were discussed, with the contenders being Muscat, Hong Kong, Himalayan Institute (proposed by Dr Saini). Dr Chintamani opined Himalayan Institute to be the ideal choice, in terms of infrastructure and cost. Dr Soni suggested to have a program focused on specialty wise teaching from the experts and the team urged all to proactively take on this initiative. Dr Chintamani and Dr Anurag agreed that there is a room to improve the ASOMA website, which will then act as the advertising platform for the body and in turn helping in garnering more memberships. The new Secretary Mr Abhishek has been selected to be hired and is present in this conference and is expected to help with this.

Agenda -9 : Report on ASOMA Fellowships present status and Future

perspectives. Dr Kothari has agreed to provide the placement once the candidates are selected and recommended by the selection committee. Regarding the local fellowships, it has been decided to form a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Anurag Srivastava.

Agenda -10 : Any other matters with permission of the Chair- President, ASOMA

Some members highlighted the absence of some executive members and office bearers in ASOMA meetings on regular basis. Our priority should be ASOMA and those that are interested in ASOMA are here. In absentia no proxy decisions should be encouraged. Dr Soni, Dr Sandeep Kumar, Dr Sanjay Yadav and Dr Piyush suggested that we should make attending of all ECs and GBMs mandatory for all office bearers and executive body members and absence without a serious and unavoidable and without the application of leave of absence should be viewed seriously.

Agenda -11 : Vote of thanks:

The President once again applauded a remarkable effort for a splendid conference at Jaipur by Dr Uttam Soni and all members joined. The meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks to the chair