# Neurosciences Newsletter

House Magazine of

## **INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES**

(Registered Under Societies Registration Act XXI 1860 Regn. No. 79106)

## March 2008

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### **Dear Friends**,

Greetings and grateful thanks for the honor bestowed on me. Succeeding a doyen like Prof. P.N. Tandon is a difficult assignment and I sincerely hope that with the collaboration of all of you we would be able to fulfill the expectations of Prof. Tandon. I am sure his guidance and advice will continue to be available to us.

You will find details of the Annual Conference elsewhere in the Newsletter and I would request all of you to help us in planning an exciting scientific program. Please send your suggestions regarding symposia, plenary lectures or and any other scientific activity to Dr. C.S. Paulose, Dr. V.K Khanna or to me by 15<sup>th</sup> May. You must ensure your own participation in the Conference. Prof. Paulose has already sent out the first circular and further communication will follow. Information will be available also on the Academy's website.

I would appeal to all the Fellows and Members to organize local scientific and public participation programs to promote scientific interaction and public awareness. I would also appeal to you to contribute papers to your Academy's Journal, Annals of Neuroscience. Kindly keep the Head Quarter Secretary posted of these activities and recognition received by honors or awards so that they can be appropriately chronicled.

Best wishes for the forthcoming festivals,

B.N. Dhawan

Dear Colleagues,

Experience of boating in the holy Ganga in full moon on Dev Deepawali during the Silver Jubilee Conference of the Academy is a life time experience. I take this opportunity to congratulate Professor M.K. Thakur and his colleagues for holding the successful conference with excellent scientific programme and hospitality at Varanasi. The report of the conference has appeared in Current Science - Vol. 94 (3), February 10, 2008 and is also available on the IAN website.

Dr. C. S. Paulose, Director, Centre for Neuroscience and Head, Department of Biotechnology, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) is the Organizing Secretary of the next meeting at Cochin. He is instrumental to develop a scintillating scientific programme to make the conference immemorable. Please block the dates to be with us in this interesting meeting.

We must appreciate the sincere and meticulous efforts of Professor Rakesh Shukla and his editorial team for bringing out the volumes of our journal - Annals of Neurosciences on time. The support of the members is required by contributing research papers and reviews. The journal is impressive and will attain new heights in the coming years with your support.

Another important issue is to have your correct Emails as some of the electronic communications are bounced. At times, the journals sent by courier by the Editor are also received undelivered. It is therefore important to update the list of addresses of members with their Emails. Although we have tried to update the list earlier, support of members is solicited to carry out this Herculean task with perfection. Changes if any, may be forwarded to me or the Treasurer, Dr. A.K. Agrawal. I will also request you to visit our website and forward suggestion(s) to me or Dr. Pankaj Seth, if any.

With sincere thanks,

Vinay K. Khanna

#### Minutes of the General Body Meeting held on November 23, 2007 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

The meeting of the General Body (GB) of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) was held on November 23, 2007 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The meeting was chaired by Professor P.N. Tandon, President of IAN. He welcomed the members and the meeting proceeded as per agenda. The list of members present during the meeting is enclosed as supplementary sheet.

- 1. The minutes of the last GB held at Lucknow on December 18, 2007 were confirmed.
- 2. The President asked Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Secretary (HQ) to present a brief account of year round activities held to commemorate the silver jubilee of IAN. Dr. Khanna informed the members that the silver jubilee activities started with the Silver Jubilee Year Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences at Lucknow on December 17 20, 2006. He said that several symposia were organized at different places in the country and abroad to commemorate the silver jubilee of IAN as per following details,
  - a. National Scientific Conference on The Expanding Frontiers of Neurosciences, Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, May 11, 2007
  - Symposium on Neurodegeneration and Neuroregeneration : Current Trends and Future Strategies, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, July 30, 2007
  - c. Symposium on Current Trends in Auditory Research, Department of Anatomy, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, September 21 – 22, 2007
  - d. National Symposium on Glial Neurobiology, School of Neuroscience, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, October 23, 2007

The members expressed their gratefulness and thanked the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America, Inc. for organizing a one day scientific conference at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA to commemorate the silver jubilee of IAN. The GB felt that it is an important hallmark and milestone in the history of the Academy. While thanking all the members and the organizers for extending their whole hearted support in organizing these activities successfully, Dr. Khanna said that it is a happy moment that as per plan the Silver Jubilee Conference has been organized at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

- 3. The GB was informed the recommendations of the Search Committee selecting Professor S.S. Parmar for Professor B.K. Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award and Academic Committee for the award of IAN Fellowship to Dr. U.C. Srivastava, University of Allahabad, Allahabad; Dr (Ms). S.B. Singh, DRDO, New Delhi and Dr (Ms). Ratna Sircar, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York and its approval by the EC.
- 4. The guidelines for Dr. R. Nath Memorial Travel Fellowship drafted by the Treasurer and Dean and approved by the EC were finally approved by the GB.
- 5. While reviewing the status of commemorative volume containing status of neuroscience in the country, the GB was informed that four chapters have been received so far. The GB was informed that Dr. P.K. Seth has been requested to coordinate with other authors and to compile the issue within six months. The GB was also informed that the draft of the history of Indian Academy of Neurosciences is almost ready with the efforts of Dr. M. Hasan and Dr. R.C. Srimal and it will be finalized soon after incorporating relevant pictures. The members were happy to note the progress.
- 6. The Treasurer's Report, presented by Dr. Vinay K. Khanna in the absence of Dr. A.K. Agrawal, Treasurer of IAN, was approved by the GB.
- 7. The Editor's Report was presented. All the members highly appreciated the efforts of Dr. Rakesh Shukla, Editor of the IAN journal, Annals of Neurosciences and expressed gratitude to him for taking pains in improving the quality of the journal and bringing out

the issues on time. President requested the members to contribute articles and reviews to the Editor to facilitate the publication.

- 8. Proposal for organizing the FAONS Congress in 2010 in India and recommendations of EC electing Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath as the President of the FAONS Congress was informed to the GB. The recommendation of the EC that the annual meeting of the IAN should be joined with the FAONS Congress was approved by the GB. It was informed that finalization of venue and dates will be done after discussing the modalities and logistics by Dr (Ms). Ravindranath. Professor Tandon, President IAN appealed that members should join hands to make the event successful.
- 9. The invitation for holding the next conference of the IAN at Cochin by Dr. C.S. Paulose or Hyderabad by Dr. P. Prakash Babu was discussed. The GB approved that the XXVI annual meeting of IAN be held at Cochin as an independent event. It was further suggested that either a pre or post conference workshop be organized. Dr. C. S. Paulose happily accepted the proposal.
- 10. Dr. M.K. Thakur, Organizing Secretary of the Silver Jubilee Conference of IAN presented the report of the conference and thanked the members of the organizing committee for their whole hearted support. Dr. Thakur also thanked the participants from India and abroad for their active participation and making the event a success. The house congratulated Dr. M.K. Thakur for developing an excellent scientific programme and thanked him, the organizing committee and the volunteers for extending excellent hospitality.
- 11. Recommendations of the EC for the new executive were presented and approved by the GB.

Any other matter

- 12. President informed the GB the recommendations of the committee (Chairman Dr. P.K. Seth, Members Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Dr. R.C. Srimal, Dr. M. Hasan) to update Rules and Byelaws of IAN and about the revised document prepared. He said that it was circulated among the members and comments / suggestions were received from few members of IAN. He also apprised the recommendations of EC that a finer look on the document is required to make it more clear with focused objectives and a committee (Dr. P.N. Tandon, Dr. P.K. Seth, Members Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Dr. M. Hasan, Dr. R.C. Srimal, Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath) will go through it to amend the document and circulate again among the life members of the IAN for their final approval.
- 13. The GB unanimously approved the recommendation of the EC electing Dr. Colin Blakemore, UK; Dr. V.S. Ramchandran, USA and Dr. A. Aguaoua, Canada as Honorary members of IAN.
- 14. Impressed with the potential nucleus of neurosciences at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, the EC decided to recommend to the University authorities to create a centre to impart M.Sc. (Neuroscience) and Ph.D. (Neuroscience) degrees. The members strongly supported the proposal and also felt that its collaboration in the country and abroad will foster the growth of neuroscience in the country.
- 15. The issue of opening of account by the local chapters of IAN was discussed during the meeting and recommendation of the EC that the local chapters are authorized to open a bank account to be jointly operated by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Chapter was approved by the GB.
- 16. The GB approved that payment of dues to FAONS towards membership of IAN as an affiliate body be made from IAN funds. The Treasurer was requested to pay the FAONS membership dues.
- 17. The GB agreed that organization of IAN supported meetings / symposia / seminars / conferences / workshops at different places be encouraged to promote neurosciences and recommended that the organizers should remit savings out of the conference funds to the parent body.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



#### Professor B.K. Bachhawat Memorial Life Time Achievement Award - 2007

Professor S.S. Parmar, Ph.D. (Lucknow), Ph.D. (McGill) Vice President Continuing Medical Education and Professor of Physiology American University of Antigua / College of Medicine Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor and Emeritus Professor of Physiology, University of North Dakota Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry, University of Lucknow 166 Palomino Pass, Trumbull, CT 06611, USA

#### **New Elected Fellows**

**Dr. U.C. Srivastava** Professor Department of Zoology University of Allahabad Allahabad – 211 002 Dr (Ms). Shashi B. Singh Director Field Research Laboratory Leh (Jammu and Kashmir) (Defense Research Development Organization) c/o 56 APO **Dr. Ratna Sircar** Associate Professor of Neurology Albert Einstein College of Medicine Leon Lowenstein Building Room 115, 75-59 263 Street Glen Oaks, New York 11004 – 1150

## **Executive Committee**

#### President Dr. B.N. Dhawan Lucknow

#### **Vice Presidents**

Dr. H.C. Pant Bethesda, USA Dr. I.K. Patro Gwalior Dr (Ms). P.G. Joshi Bangalore

**Dean** Dr. M. Hasan Lucknow

**General Secretary** Dr. M.K. Thakur Varanasi

Secretary HQ Dr. V.K. Khanna Lucknow

Secretary International Affairs Dr. Yogesh Dwivedi Chicago, USA

Joint Secretary Dr. P. Seth Manesar

Treasurer Dr. A. K. Agrawal Lucknow Chief Editor Dr. R. Shukla Lucknow

#### **Co-Editors**

Dr. R.K. Garg Lucknow Dr (Ms). N. C. Singh Manesar Dr (Ms). N. Patro Gwalior

#### Members

Dr. N.B. Joshi Bangalore Dr. S. Bappiraju Hyderabad Dr (Ms). Debjani Guha Kolkata Dr. A. Anand Chandigarh Dr. N.K. Subhedar Nagpur Dr. B.G. Unni Jorhat Dr. F. Islam New Delhi

IBRO and FAONS Representative Dr (Ms). V. Ravindranath Manesar

Immediate Past President Dr. P.N. Tandon

Immediate Past General Secretary Dr (Ms). P.G. Joshi

## **Next Conference at Cochin**

The XXVI annual conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences and International Conference on Advances in Neuroscience (ICAN) will be held on December 12 – 14, 2008 at Cochin. Dr. C.S. Paulose, Director, Centre for Neuroscience and Head, Department of Biotechnology, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Cochin 682022, Email - <u>iancochin2008@gmail.com</u> is the Organizing Secretary of the conference.

The first circular has been sent by him to the members. Suggestions, if any for the meeting may be sent to him.

## **Proposal for Symposia**

Proposals for symposia on cutting edge areas of neuroscience are invited for the next annual conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences scheduled at Cochin. A brief write up including the scope and relevance of the symposium not exceeding 2 pages and list of speakers alongwith the titles of their presentation should be forwarded to the Organizing Secretary and a copy to Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Secretary (HQ), Email: <u>neuroscienceacademy@gmail.com</u> latest by May 15, 2008.

#### **Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust Award**

**Subhrangshu Guhathakurta**, A.S. Singh, S. Sinha, A. Chatterjee, S. Ahmad and R. Usha, Manovikas Biomedical Research and Diagnostic Centre, Kolkata : Serotonin receptor2A gene (HTR2A) polymorphisms: A genetic correlation with autism in the Indian population

#### Dr. D.M. Kar Prize

**Deepti Dubey**, S. Singh and S. Ganesh, Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur : The EPM2A gene defects in LAFORA's progressive myoclonus epilepsy: Role of splice variants in disease phenotype

#### S.S. Parmar Research Foundation (USA) Prize

**Ashish Upadhyay** and P.K. Roy, National Brain Research Centre, Manesar : Nonlinear dynamic analysis of brain and language: A quantitative basis using information processing and functional imaging

**Pankaj Gaur** and S. Prasad, Department of Zoology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi : Expression of fragile X mental retardation protein (FMRP) in developing mouse brain

#### Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize

**Soumi Ghosh** and M.K. Thakur PS2 protein expression is upregulated by sex steroids in the cerebral cortex of aging mice Neurochemistry International

#### **Best Paper Award from the Organizers**

**Y.V. Bhute** and V.V. Baile, Department of Zoology, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur Distribution of nitrinergic neuronal system in the olfactory system, forebrain and pituitary gland in *Labeo rohita* : NADPH –diephorase histochemical study

#### **Professor R. Nath Memorial Travel Award**

Ms. Arti Nagayach, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Ms. Shyamla Jadhav, Sophia College, Mumbai
Ms. Pooja Sagvekar, Sophia College, Mumbai
Mr. S. Santosh Singh, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Mr. Naveen Chandra Pandey, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Mr. Deepak Kumar Pal, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Mr. Kamendra Kumar, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Mr. Mudasir Ahmad, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Mr. Rakesh Bhaskar, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Mr. Arojit Mitra, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Ms. Qudsiya Khan, Sophia College, Mumbai
Ms. Saathvika Shetty, Sophia College, Mumbai
Ms. Anjana Sharma, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Ms. Indu Sharma, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
Ms. Arpita Sharma, Jiwaji University, Gwalior

#### John Miller Travel Award

Mr. Shashank Tiwari, Jiwaji University, Gwalior Mr. Varun Kumar Pandey, Jiwaji University, Gwalior

#### **Awards/Prizes For Young Neuroscientists**

To recognize the contributions of young researchers working in the area of neurosciences and encourage them, the Indian Academy of Neurosciences has instituted following awards/prizes.

- 1. Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust Award (For best oral presentation by the young neuroscientist below 40 years of age at the annual conference).
- 2. Dr. D.M. Kar Prize (For best oral presentation by the young neuroscientist below 35 years of age at the annual conference).
- 3. Professor S.S. Parmar Research Foundation Award (For best poster presentation by young neuroscientist below 35 years of age at the annual conference).
- 4. Jyotsnamoyee Raghunath Bhattacharya Prize (For published research paper in the field of basic neurosciences. Paper should have been published during the past 2 years).

Persons willing to be considered for the awards may apply directly or get themselves nominated. The details of the awards are on the IAN website. Copies may also be obtained from the Secretary HQ (Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Scientist, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001).

Last date of receiving nominations is September 15, 2008.

#### **Nominations for Fellowship**

The Academy recognizes scientists who have excelled in neurosciences by electing them as Fellows. A life member or honorary member of the Academy with at least 10 years of research experience in the field of neurosciences can be nominated. Nominations on prescribed format available at the website or from the Secretary (HQ), supported by three Fellows of the Academy are invited alongwith complete Biodata by September 15, 2008. Nominations should be sent to the Dean (Professor Mahdi Hasan, 80, Victoria Street, Lucknow - 226 003) and a copy of the same to Secretary HQ (Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Scientist, Indian Institute Toxicology Research, MG Marg. of Lucknow  $-226\ 001$ ) by September 15, 2008. Nominations received after the last date will be considered next year.

## Travel Award(s)

Applications are invited for Dr. R. Nath Memorial Travel Fellowship and Dr. John Miller Travel Award which are available to the candidate (below 35 years of age) presenting a paper at the annual conference on competitive basis. Up to 8 travel awards consisting of actual travel reimbursement by AC-3Tier upto the maximum of Rs. 1,500/ - will be available in case of Dr. R. Nath Memorial Travel Fellowship. In case of Dr. John Miller Travel Award, up to 2 travel awards will be available consisting of actual travel reimbursement by 2 Class-3Tier and will not exceed Rs. 600/each. Requests alongwith abstract of the paper may be sent to the Organizing Secretary (Dr. C.S. Paulose, Director, Centre for Neuroscience and Head, Department of Biotechnology, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin 682 022, Email < iancochin2008@gmail.com >) and a copy of the same to the Treasurer (Dr. A.K. Agrawal, Developmental Toxicology Division, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001) by September 15, 2008.

#### Suggestion(s) For IAN Website

The Academy thanks Dr (Ms). Vijaylakshmi Ravindranath, Director, National Brain Research Centre, Manesar for her support to host the new website of the Academy <u>www.neuroscienceacademy.org.in</u> Dr. Pankaj Seth, Joint Secretary of the Academy who has been entrusted the responsibility to update it from time to time has done an excellent job with the help of his other colleagues at National Brain Research Centre, Manesar. Any suggestion(s) to improve the website are welcome and may be forwarded to Dr. Pankaj Seth, Scientist, National Brain Research Centre, N.H. 8, Nainwal Mode, Manesar – 122 050; Email: cpseth@nbrc.res.in>

#### **Forthcoming Meetings**

ISN/APSN/IBRO School, Shanghai, China, June 16 - 21, 2008. Email: <u>a.stadlin@griffith.edu.au</u>

The Third ISN Special Neurochemistry Conference, Beijing, China, June 27 – July 1, 2008. Email: <u>secretariat@isnbeijing2008.org</u>

XXVI CINP Congress, Munich, Germany, July 13 – 17, 2008. Email: cinp@cpo-hanset.de

**Neuroscience 2008 and The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japan Neuroscience Society**, Tokyo, Japan, July 9 – 11, 2008. Email: <u>neurosci2008@congre.co.jp</u>

**SA Pharmacology and Neurosciences Congress 2008,** Grahamstown, South Africa, October 5 – 8, 2008. Email: S.Daya@ru.ac.za

International Conference on Biotechnological Approaches to Neuroimmunomodulation and Infectious Diseases, Chandigarh, India, December 11 – 13, 2008. Email: icbanid2008@gmail.com

9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biological Psychiatry, Paris, France, June 28 – July 3, 2009. Email: info@wfsbp.org

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Society For Neurochemistry, Busan, S. Korea, August 23 – 29, 2009. Email: <u>bexco@bexco.co.kr</u>

#### Honours/Awards

**Professor P. K. Seth**, Chief Executive Officer, Biotech Park, Lucknow, an eminent biochemist and toxicologist was awarded the prestigious Dr. P.C. Ray Memorial Award by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during the inaugural function of the Indian Science Congress held at Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on January 3, 2008.

**Professor (Ms) V Ravindranath**, Director, National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, an eminent neuroscientist was awarded GP Chatterjee Memorial award during the 95<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress

**Professor M. K. Thakur,** Department of Zoology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi has been elected Fellow of The National Academy of Sciences, India.

**Professor N. K. Subhedar,** Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur has been elected Fellow of The National Academy of Sciences, India.

#### Request

The abstracts of the earlier meetings of Indian Academy of Neurosciences were not published in Annals of Neurosciences and therefore are not easily available. The Academy will therefore bring out the abstracts of meetings held earlier in a serial volume. Members having copies of abstracts and souvenirs of conferences from 1982 onwards are requested to send these to Dr. Vinay K. Khanna by May 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. These will be returned back soon after taking the images.

#### News for the Next Issue

You may inform your achievements and of other members and forward news items for the next issue of the newsletter to Dr. Vinay K. Khanna, Scientist, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, MG Marg, Lucknow – 226 001, Fax: +91-522-2628227, E-mail: <vkkhanna1@rediffmail.com>

#### INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES

		SHIP FORM		
		emy of Neuroscie	nces. I have read the constitution	
1. Name:	of the society and agree to abide by it. 1. Name:		2.Educational Qualification	
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<ol> <li>Subscription fees* for Life Membership is Rs. 1000/-, Ordinary Membership is Rs. 100/- and Student Membership is Rs. 50/</li> </ol>				
2. Ordinary and Student Membership is valid for one calendar year and shall become due on the				
1 <sup>st</sup> of January each year.				
	3. All the payment be made in cash or by demand draft in favour of Treasurer, Indian Academy			
of Neurosciences" payable at Lucknow and shall be sent along with the duly completed form				
at the following address. Dr. A.K. Agrawal Treasurer, Indian Academy of Neurosciences,				
Indian Institute of Toxicology Research				
PO Box 80, M.G. Marg,				
Lucknow – 226 001, India				
Email: aka33@rediffmail.com				
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INDIAN ACADEMY OF NEUROSCIENCES Format For Nomination of Fellows				
Name:				
Address & Designation:				
Qualification: (Degree and post graduation)				
Membership in Academy:				
	Life Date of	joining Academy		
Significant Contributions in the field of Neurosciences:				

Significat in the fiel (About 200 words, attach annexure) Most Significant Publications During the last five years (Please give the titles and attach copies of three publications) Proposed by

Name Signatures

Supported by

Address Note: Proposer and Seconder should be Fellows of the Academy.