

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Management Committee of the NPL Former Scientists Forum, held on Tuesday, July 22, 2003 at 10.30 A.M. in the TEC Conference Room of the National Physical Laboratory.

This was a special meeting of the Management Committee convened as per the following decision taken vide Item 10.1 of the Minutes of the Fifth Meeting held on June 20, 2003, circulated vide letter dated July 2, 2003, notifying this meeting:

“10.1 Meeting with Dr. Vikram Kumar, Director, NPL: It was suggested that Dr. Bindal may meet Dr. Vikram Kumar and tell him that the Members of the Management Committee would like to have a meeting with him at a time that suited his convenience some time in early July, and accordingly, another meeting of the Committee may be called.”

Attendance: The following Members of the Management Committee attended the meeting:

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|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 1. Dr. V N Bindal | ... | ... | ... | ... | President |
| 2. Dr. O P Bahl | ... | ... | ... | ... | Vice-President |
| 3. Dr. V S Panwar | ... | ... | ... | ... | Joint Secretary |
| 4. Shri V P Wasan | ... | ... | ... | ... | Treasurer |
| 5. Dr. J K N Sharma | ... | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 6. Mrs. Santosh Aggarwal | ... | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 7. Dr. K C Nagpal | ... | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 8. Shri Shiv Nath | ... | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 9. Dr. J C Trehan | ... | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 10. Shri R C Dhawan | ... | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 11. Shri G K Arora | ... | ... | ... | ... | Secretary |

In addition, the following also attended the meeting:

12. Shri K N Bhatnagar
13. Shri S Parthasarathi

Shri Bhatnagar had been invited to deputise for Dr. P C Jain who was presently abroad, and Shri Parthasarathi had been invited as he was a member of the “Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee”, the report on the progress of which was to be presented by the Chairman of that Committee vide Item 5(i) of the Agenda.

Dr. Namita Kundu regretted her inability to attend the meeting. Dr. A P Jain and Dr. B N Srivastava did not attend the meeting.

Before the commencement of the meeting, Mrs. Santosh Aggarwal, presented a bouquet to Dr. Vikram Kumar, Director, NPL, on behalf of the Members of the Committee.

AGENDA

1. Introductory Remarks by the President, and Welcome to Dr. Vikram Kumar, Director, NPL.

Dr. V N Bindal gave a background of the formation of the Forum, touching briefly on the Aims and Objectives of the Forum. In particular he said that the Forum provided the retired scientists and technical officers an opportunity to socialize at intervals, and to share information regarding the various rules and regulations relating to pension, medical facilities etc., which were notified through various circulars and Office Memoranda. One of the objectives was also, to address to old age problems by organizing lectures/talks by experts in various fields.

Dr. Bindal said that those members, who are of the age of 75 or above, find a special place in the Forum, and they are designated as “Senior Members”. The Forum also has the Patronage of the former four retired Directors of NPL.

Since there is at present no other source of Revenue for the Forum besides the Nominal Membership Fee, the activities of the Forum are planned on its shoestring budget, through its Coordinators who are also the Members of the Management Committee. The Secretary interacts with these Coordinators on phone, who, in turn, interact on phone with the various Members and Prospective Members. This ensures a more informal approach of communication, and has been found to be working very satisfactorily.

With this, background, Dr. Bindal, welcomed Dr. Vikram Kumar to the meeting and said that it was very kind of him to have found time for it out of his busy schedule. The Members of the Committee were very keen to have his views about the Forum, and also any advice and suggestions that he may like to make.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Bindal added that two of the Former Directors of NPL had the distinction of getting elevated as Director General of CSIR, and he earnestly hoped and wished that this tradition will be kept up by Dr. Vikram Kumar also.

2. Self-Introduction by Members of the Management Committee to Dr. Vikram Kumar.

Keeping in view the time constraint, the self-introduction by the members was very brief. It was hoped that there will be more opportunities for this purpose.

3. Address by Dr. Vikram Kumar, followed by any suggestions that the Members of the Committee may like to make for establishment of an intimate link between the Forum and the Laboratory.

A note prepared by the Secretary of the Forum, containing some suggestions for the consideration of Director, NPL, based on the deliberations made at the various meetings of the Forum and its Management Committee, was circulated at the time of the meeting.

Dr. Vikram Kumar, at the very outset, observed that since a scientist remains a scientist all through. He never becomes 'Former'. As such, perhaps a better terminology could be thought of in the naming of the Forum.

He said that all possible cooperation from the Laboratory would be forthcoming and made the following specific observations:

- 3.1. Participation in Laboratory Activities:** He said that the Laboratory would ensure that the members of the Forum get invitations for participation in various functions organized by it e.g. Open Days, Lectures etc. However, invitations for Bhatnagar Award etc. fell outside the purview of Laboratory.
- 3.2. Office Memoranda and Circulars of relevance to the retired Scientists and Technical Officers:** He said that he would consult the COA regarding the naming of a contact person from whom copies of the various relevant circulars/OMs etc could be obtained.
- 3.3. NPL Publications:** He said that the publication of "Sameeksha" was behind schedule. However, copies of its issue, which was presently in the press, will be mailed to the members of the Forum. As for the "NPL Technical Bulletin", its publication had stopped, and the issue of its revival is to be reviewed.
- 3.4. NPL Identity Cards:** He said that the practice followed in the DRDO is to issue the Pensioner's Identity Card on the day of his retirement from service, and he would ensure that this is also done so by NPL on a priority basis. In addition, he also felt that it was desirable to increase the usefulness of this card by adding information about the Residential Address etc., for which he will consult the COA.
- 3.5. Place in NPL for the use of the Members of the Forum:** He said that even though the number of Scientists, over the years, had reduced from around 400 to about 250 now, the Laboratory finds itself short of space presently. This is because a good amount of space is occupied by discarded/unused equipment to which the members of the Forum had also contributed during the period they were in active service. He said that he was planning a cleaning up operation to reclaim the usable space, and as such, the allocation of a place to the Forum may have to wait for some time.
- 3.6. Computer, Printer, Internet, and Xeroxing Facilities:** He said that the provision of such facilities could be thought of only after a Room has been earmarked for the use of the Members of the Forum.
- 3.7. Involvement/Association of the Members of the Forum in the Activities of the Laboratory:** He said that this is the most welcome suggestion, as the Laboratory could benefit from the expertise and experience gained by the Members of the Forum. He was himself considering organization of Re-orientation Schools, where he could consider associating the active involvement of the members of the Forum. In fact, this issue could perhaps be addressed by the Forum on its own, as it could be a good source of additional revenue also.
- 3.8. Reimbursement of Medical Expenses:** In response to the suggestion for a separate queue for claims for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by the pensioners to ensure faster disposal of their cases, he said that he will look into the issue and discuss it with the COA also, to see what best could be done and how.
- 3.9. Website:** He offered to provide one page on the Laboratory's Website for information relating to the Forum. However, this may take some time, as it required training up people to put information on the Website, and to update it periodically.

4. Vote of thanks to Dr. Vikram Kumar by the Vice President

Dr. O P Bahl said that merely thanking Dr. Vikram Kumar in words was not enough, and it was with the feelings behind these words which he would like to convey to him on his own behalf as also on behalf of the members of the

Forum, represented here by this Committee. It was hoped that in future there would be occasions for his interaction with all the other members of the Forum as well.

After this item Dr. Vikram Kumar left, wishing the members of the Management Committee very fruitful deliberations on the other items of the Agenda for the meeting.

5 Report on the Progress made by the Chairmen of the following Committees:

- (i) **Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee (Chairman: Dr. O P Bahl)**
- (ii) **Committee to advise on Affiliation of the NPL-FSF with CSIR Pensioners Welfare Association (Chairman: Dr. J K N Sharma)**
- (iii) **Newsletter Committee (Chairman: Dr. K C Nagpal)**
- (iv) **Forum's First Foundation Day Celebration Committee (Chairman, Dr. J K N Sharma)**

The Chairmen of all the four Committees informed that their Committees had not met so far, and there was nothing much for them to report. However, it was considered desirable to share the information that individual members of the Committees had brought with them, as this would help them in their deliberations.

5.1 Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee:

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|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1. Dr. O P Bahl | ... | ... | ... | Chairman |
| 2. Shri S Parthasarathi | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 3. Shri G K Arora, Secretary | ... | ... | ... | Member (Ex-Officio) |

It was decided to have a meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, at 2.00 P.M. in Dr. Bahl's Room in the HEPP Building of NPL.

5.2. Committee to advise on Affiliation of the NPL-FSF with CSIR Pensioners Welfare Association

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|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1. Dr. J K N Sharma | ... | ... | ... | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. B N Srivastava | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 3. Shri G K Arora, Secretary | ... | ... | ... | Member (Ex-Officio) |

It was decided that Dr. Sharma would ascertain the convenience of Dr. B N Srivastava who could not attend this meeting, and fix up a meeting of the Committee.

5.3 Newsletter Committee

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| 1. Dr. K C Nagpal | ... | ... | ... | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. V S Panwar | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 3. From out of the other Members of NPL-FSF) | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 4. Other than the Members of the MC) | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 5. Shri G K Arora, Secretary | ... | ... | ... | Member (Ex-Officio) |

It was felt desirable to augment the membership of the Committee by addition of Dr. O P Bahl and Shri V P Wasan also as members of this Committee, and to explore the possibility of getting some person(s) who could sponsor the publication of the First Issue of the Newsletter, and meet the expenditure that may be involved.

It was decided to have a meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, at 12.00 Noon in Dr. Bahl's Room in the HEPP Building of NPL.

5.4 Forum's First Foundation Day Celebration Committee

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| 1. Dr. J K N Sharma | ... | ... | ... | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. V N Bindal | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 3. Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 4. Dr. K C Nagpal | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 5. Dr. O P Bahl | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 6. Shri V P Wasan, Treasurer | ... | ... | ... | Member |
| 7. Shri G K Arora, Secretary | ... | ... | ... | Member (Ex-Officio) |

It was observed that since January 17, 2004 will be falling on a Saturday, it will not be possible to draw upon the various facilities of NPL on that day. As such, it may be desirable to shift the celebration of the First Foundation Day of the Forum by a couple of days either before or after January 17. Further the possibility of arranging for a lunch for the participants may also be explored.

Dr. Panwar offered to help the Committee to enquire about the expenditure that may be involved on per-head basis for the lunch, and Dr. Sharma offered to explore the possibility of arranging for a talk by some expert on that day on "Diabetes".

Decision to hold a meeting of the Committee was deferred. Dr. Sharma will fix up this meeting, which may be held on the same date on which the meeting of the Committee at 5.2 above is proposed.

6 Approval to Induction of New Members.

The Committee approved the induction of the following as new Members of the Forum:

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|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1. Shri H L B Bhaskar | ... | ... | ... | Life Member |
| 2. Shri M K Balchandani | ... | ... | ... | Member |

7 Planning for the next meeting of the Forum scheduled to be held on Friday, August 22, 2003, at 11.00 AM in the TEC Conference Room of NPL.

The Secretary distributed to each Coordinator, the up-dated List of Members/Prospective Members to be contacted by him for the next meeting of the Forum fixed for Friday, August 22, 2003, at 11.00 A.M., in the TEC Conference Room of NPL. The main attraction for that meeting will be a talk by Shri S C Tyagi, Deputy Secretary, CSIR, on "Medical Facilities available to CGHS Beneficiaries".

8 Any other item with the permission of the Chair

No other item was taken up and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the President who chaired the meeting.