

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Management Committee of the NPL Former Scientists Forum, held on Friday, September 12, 2003 at 10.00 A.M. in the TEC Conference Room of the National Physical Laboratory.

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

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. Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu	...	...	...	...	Member
9. Dr. J C Trehan	...	...	...	...	Member
10. Shri G K Arora	...	...	...	...	Secretary

In addition, Shri K N Bhatnagar also attended the meeting. He had been invited to deputise for Dr. P C Jain who was presently abroad. Dr. A P Jain, Dr. B N Srivastava, Shri Shiv Nath and Shri R C Dhawan did not attend the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Introductory Remarks by the President

Dr. V N Bindal welcomed the members to the meeting and informed that Dr. A P Jain had not been keeping good health for some time past, and was planning to go out of station for a change. Perhaps that was the reason that he could not be present at the meeting. We wish him a quick recovery.

Dr. Bindal said that the Secretary had circulated some documents along with his Status Report, relating to the Agenda for today's meeting, but before the Report is presented, he would like to mention about some of the items, which these documents relate to.

It is observed that out of the 104 Members, if we take out the four Patrons and the six Senior Members, we have 94 paying members as of today, the yearly contribution from whom towards the Membership Fee, amounts to Rs. 9400/=. This receipt will also be limited to five years, assuming that all of them renew their membership. As such, if there is no other source of generation of additional funds, the yearly expenditure has to be well within the expected yearly receipts. This implies that we shall have to plan for the Newsletter and the Foundation Day Celebrations in such a manner that they are essentially self-supporting, as it shall not be possible to provide funds from out of the Forum's corpus.

Dr. Bindal also mentioned about the constitution of the Programme Committee, and felt that after talking to Dr. A P Jain and Dr. K K Mahajan, it was felt that it might be pre-mature to have a separate Programme Committee. Instead it may be better that the "Forum's First Foundation Day Celebration Committee" may be renamed as "Programme Committee", and this Committee may do some preliminary thinking about the Projects that the Members of the Forum could undertake/participate in, as suggested by Dr. Mitra, or about the organization of certain Workshops, as suggested by Dr. Vikram Kumar. In addition this Committee may also decide about the organisation of lectures by experts on topics of common interest to the Members of the Forum.

Dr. Bindal also observed that the Secretary had sent some information to the four Patrons of the Forum, for which he had been advised by him. The Committee, endorsed his view that the Senior Members should also be periodically kept informed about the deliberations of the Forum, and requested the Secretary to do so.

2. Approval to the Induction of New Members

The Committee approved the induction of the 11 New Members, which had been listed by the Secretary in the Status Report at Sr. No 1.

3. Status Report by the Secretary

Before presenting the Report, Shri Arora read out the letter that Dr. Bindal had written to Dr. R A Mashelkar, DG CSIR, felicitating him for the "Ahilya Rashtriya Puruskar" for the year 2003.

Shri Arora said that in addition to the information about the new Members, the report contained information about the attendance record of the 104 Members at the four meetings of the Forum held so far during this year

on 17th January, 7th March, 25th April and 22nd August, as also of the 11 other persons who had attended some of these meetings but had not yet enrolled themselves as Members. A Coordinator-Wise Summary had also been presented along with some observations in the form of annotations in the document titled “Forum’s Health”.

Another document titled “Coordinators’ List”, gives information about the various Members/Prospective Members, being presently contacted by the various Coordinators, giving information about the Phone Numbers and the Membership Status of 199 persons, to facilitate interaction with them. This is accompanied with another list of 63 persons whose whereabouts are not known, as also the attendance record of the various members of the Management Committee at the six meetings held so far during the current year on 4th February, 26th February, 7th March, 10th April, 20th June and 22nd July.

Minutes of the “Newsletter Committee” meeting held on August 5, 2003, as approved by its Chairman, as also of the “Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee” meeting held on August 22, 2003, for which the approval of the Chairman is awaited, also accompany the Report.

Information about the follow-up action on the decisions taken at the two meetings of the Management Committee held on June 20, and July 22 is also reported. As had been desired by the President, the various meetings held so far had been numbered to facilitate reference to the decisions taken at any particular meeting.

Copies of the Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Forum held on August 22, as approved by the Chairman, along with the Agenda for today’s meeting of the Management Committee, had been sent to the four Patrons, as per the advice of the President. In response e-mails had been received from Prof. E S R Gopal and Dr. A P Mitra. A Copy of the e-mail received from Prof. Gopal had been circulated at the meeting. Its receipt has also been acknowledged. Copies of the documents relating to “Medical Issues” reported in the Minutes of the Newsletter Committee meeting, which had been desired by Dr. Mitra, have also been sent to him.

A copy of the Status Report by the Secretary appears as **Annexure I**.

4. Mechanics of Interaction with the Members/Prospective Members

Shri Arora said that the individual lists of Members/Prospective Members, which the Coordinators were being provided earlier, restricted the scope of interaction with only those persons that figured in those lists. Since the interaction is primarily through Phone Numbers, the “Coordinators’ List”, now provides this information about all the Members/Prospective Members. The names of all the persons figuring in the earlier lists that had been provided to the Coordinators for interaction for the Fourth meeting of the Forum held on August 22 had been arranged alphabetically under their surnames. This will provide extra flexibility to the Coordinators to interact with all of the Members/Prospective Members covered in this list.

5. Status Report by the Treasurer

Shri V P Wasan presented the report about the Receipts and Expenditure up to 11th September, as under:

Receipts		Rs. 21,000.00
Expenditure		
(i) Photocopying	Rs. 1,906.50	
(ii) Stationery & Postage	Rs. 2,140.00	
(iii) Meeting expenses	Rs. 1,062.50	
(iv) Bank Charges	Rs. 25.00	
TOTAL (i) to (iv)	Rs. 5,134.00	Rs. 5,134.00
Balance		
(i) Bank Deposits	Rs. 10,675.00	
(ii) Cash in Hand	Rs. 5,191.00	
TOTAL (i) +(ii)	Rs. 15,866.00	Rs. 15, 866.00

This was noted, and all the expenditure incurred till 11. 09. 03, was approved.

6. Presentation of the Status by the Chairmen of the four Committees constituted by the Management Committee at its meeting held on 20. 06. 03

6.1 Medical Facilities to Pensioners Committee: Dr. A P Jain who had chaired the meeting of the Committee on 22. 08. 03 had not yet communicated his approval to the Minutes of that meeting and was also not present. Shri Arora informed that the consent of Shri Gaira for being associated as an additional Member of this Committee had been obtained on phone. Shri Parthasarathi had also been contacted, but he had yet to prepare the note containing his suggestions as per the decision that had been taken at the meeting held on 22nd August.

6.2 Newsletter Committee: Dr. Nagpal said that in view of the financial position indicated by the President, efforts would be made by the Committee to raise funds through advertisements etc. and accordingly decide

about the items of information that could be published. It was proposed to release the Newsletter at the time of the First Foundation Day Celebrations. In the absence of anybody volunteering for the vacancies on the Membership of this Committee, Dr. Nagpal was authorized to fill them up as per his choice.

- 6.3 Committee to advise on Affiliation of NPL-FSF with CSIR Pensioners Welfare Association:** Dr. Sharma said that it had not been possible for him to hold any meeting of the Committee so far, and since Dr. Srivastava, who is the only other Member of the Committee (in addition to the Secretary of the Forum), is not present at this meeting also, it is not possible to get his views in his capacity as a Member of the Committee. He, therefore, suggested that since we now also have some opinion in this regard from Prof. Gopal, the Management Committee itself might consider the issue of affiliation.

Majority opinion was that while we favour working hand-in-hand with the CSIR Pensioners Welfare Association (CPWA) as equal partners on various issues of common interest, we would not like to be bound with the conditions laid down by them in their Guidelines for Affiliation. Shri Arora may communicate this decision of the Management Committee to the Secretary of the CPWA. With this, the role assigned to this Committee stands completed.

- 6.4 Forums First Foundation Day Celebration Committee:** In view of the suggestion made by the President, which was unanimously accepted, this Committee now stands re-named as “**Programme Committee**”. It was decided to hold a meeting of this Committee immediately after the meeting of the Management Committee is over.

7. Constitution of a “Programme Committee

The Management Committee’s decision recorded above takes care of this item.

8. Consideration of the suggestion to rename the Forum as “NPL Emeritus Scientists Forum”.

Shri Arora informed that he had talked to Dr. A R Verma in this regard as a follow-up of the letter that he had sent to him. Dr. Verma had informed that on second thought, he felt that the present name of the Forum was more appropriate, as the term ‘emeritus’ had a very limited and specific usage, which did not appear relevant in this context. He was also told about the suggestion made by Prof. Gopal in regard to enrolment of the technical and supporting staff also as members of the Forum, and his immediate response was also that it was not desirable to compartmentalize the pensioners into scientific, technical, supporting staff etc. It was decided to consider the whole issue in detail at the next meeting of the Management Committee.

9. Logo and Letter Head of the Forum

Since the very name of the Forum was under review, this issue was held in abeyance. It was accordingly decided to continue using the letterhead that had been already designed on the computer. The suggestion of adding the names of the Patrons to the letterhead did not meet with the approval of the Members of the Committee.

10. Date, Time, Venue, and Agenda for the Fifth Meeting of the Forum

It was decided to hold the Fifth Meeting of the Forum on Friday, November 21, 2003 at 10.00 A. M. in the TEC Conference Room. It was suggested that Shri M M Sharma who had been associated with the drafting of the New Medical Scheme of CSIR (AMA Scheme) might be requested to give a talk on the merits and demerits of that scheme vis-à-vis the CGHS Scheme, at that meeting of the Forum.

11. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

- 11.1 Eighth Meeting of the Management Committee:** It was decided to hold the Eighth Meeting of the Management Committee on Friday, October 31, 2003 at 10.00 A. M. in the TEC Conference Room. It was also decided that the announcement relating to the Fifth Meeting of the Forum might be held up till after this meeting of the Management Committee.

- 11.2 List of various Hospitals/Diagnostic Centres under CGHS, Delhi for Specialised and General Purpose Treatment and Diagnostic Procedures:** The Members of the Management Committee desired having the consolidated list of all the Private Hospitals/ Diagnostic Centres under CGHS, Delhi, that had been compiled by Shri Arora, along with the Alphabetical Index thereto, which had been mentioned in the Minutes of the meeting of the Newsletter Committee. Copies of these documents were given to Dr O P Bahl, who undertook to provide their copies to all the Members of the Management Committee at its Eighth meeting to be held on 31. 10. 2003.

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