

# NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

## Minutes of the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Management Committee held on Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 10.30 A.M. in the TEC Conference Room, NPL

The following Agenda for the meeting had been notified by Shri G K Arora, the Secretary of the Forum to the members and invitees, vide his letter dated 04. 07. 2014, sent to Shri P K Mittal and Shri R C Dhawan by post and to the others by e-mail. Additionally, copies of this notice were sent to Shri S C Garg, Dr. V S Panwar, Dr. P C Jain and Dr. V N Bindal by post also. All the members of the Forum who had agreed to take up the responsibility of Geographical Area Coordinator in respect of Item 7 on the agenda for the meeting were also invited to the meeting. Copies of the notice for the meeting were also placed on the table for ready reference for all the members and invitees at the time of the meeting.

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks by the President.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
3. Follow-up Action on the decisions taken at the Meeting of the Management Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
4. Status Report by the Secretary.
5. Induction of New Members to the Forum.
6. Amplification of the Welfare Committee through addition of Shri T V Joshua as another member of the Committee.
7. Geographical Area Coordinators
8. Status Reports by the Area Committees.
  - 8.1 Publications Committee
  - 8.2 Welfare Committee
  - 8.3 Scientific Affairs Committee
  - 8.4 Superstitions & Myths Committee
  - 8.5 Scholarships Committee.
9. Planning for the Dr. A P Mitra Memorial Lecture
10. Planning for the next meeting of the Forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014.
11. Any other Item with the Permission of the Chair.

### Minutes of the Meeting

**Attendance:** The following attended the meeting

1. Shri S C Garg	President
2. Dr. S K Halder	Vice President
3. Dr. V S Panwar	Joint Secretary
4. Shri Tripuirari Lal	Treasurer
5. Dr. Amitabha Basu	Member
6. Dr. P C Jain	Member
7. Shri S S Verma	Member
8. Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
9. Dr. R K Garg	Member
10. Dr. Pardeep Mohan	Member
11. Shri R C Dhawan	Member
12. Shri V P Wasan	Member
13. Dr. V N Bindal	Invitee
14. Shri T V Joshua	Invitee
15. Shri S K Sharma	Invitee
16. Shri A K Kanjilal	Invitee
17. Shri A C Gupta	Invitee
18. Dr. R K Aggarwal	Invitee
19. Dr. R C Saksena	Invitee
20. Shri R L Mendiratta	Invitee
21. Dr. S K Gupta	Invitee
22. Shri G K Arora	Secretary

Shri R B Saxena, Dr. Hari Kishan, Mrs. Shashikala Shastri, Mrs. Santosh Manrai, Dr. S L Jain and Shri P K Mittal (from among the members), and Prof. Vikram Kumar, Dr. Kailash Chandra, Shri T K Chakravarty, Shri G P Dixit, Dr. A K Gupta, Dr. V K Rustagi (from among the invitees) had regretted their inability to attend. Shri H R Mehta (Member, MC) did not attend the meeting.

**1.Introductory Remarks by the Chairman:** Welcoming the members to the meeting, Shri S C Garg said that in response to the highlights of the Annual General Body meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 that had been circulated by the Secretary to the members of the Forum who could be contacted through e-mail, there had been a very encouraging response from the members for their voluntary contributions for Dr. B C Chakravarty Fund as also for the Corpus for Dr. A P Mitra Fund being created for arranging lectures in his memory from out of the interest earned on this Fund. He also informed the members of the visit made by Prof. Vikram Kumar, Mrs. Reetam Kumar and Dr. S L Jain to the residence of Dr. B C Chakravarty on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014, and his report on this visit as also his suggestions for consideration by the Forum. It was nice to learn that Dr. Chakravarty has been registering gradual improvement in his health, and with the problems regarding the disbursement of the pension of Dr. Charavarty to his sister having also been solved, there is no pressing requirement of money in this regard. As suggested by Prof. Vikram Kumar, it was decided that the contributions received for Dr. B C Chakravarty Fund may be sent to his sister Shymali Chakravarty.

He said that another important issue which required to be considered by the Committee was in regard to the institution of an Annual Award for the Best Popular Science Paper published in Vigyan Pragati, So far there had been no response to the letter that had been sent to Ms. Deeksha Bist, Acting Director, NISCAIR, by the Secretary on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in this regard. It was felt that since this proposal had been mooted by the Scholarships Committee, decision in this regard may be taken by that Committee which was due to meet on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** The Minutes of that meeting, had been circulated by the Secretary to the Members and Invitees vide his letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014, inviting comments by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The minutes of the meeting, incorporating corrections in respect of the typographical errors pointed out by Dr. S L Jain, as also the comments by Dr. V N Bindal and Dr. Amitabha Basu along with the action taken thereon, were placed before the members at the time of the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting were confirmed.

**3. Follow-up Action on the decisions taken at the Management Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** The Committee noted the follow-up action taken as reported by the Secretary in his Status Report.

**4. Status Report by the Secretary:** The salient points of the Status Report (Annexure 'A') were briefly presented by the Secretary.

**5. Induction of New Members to the Forum:** The Committee approved the induction of Shri N Narayana Swami, Dr. Virendra Shanker, Shri C S Prasanna Kumar and Shri Gurmukh Singh as four new members of the Forum.

**6. Amplification of the Welfare Committee:** The Committee approved the addition of Shri T V Joshua as a new Member of the Welfare Committee. This was welcomed by the clapping of hands by the members.

**7. Geographical Area Coordinators:** The Committee was informed that the following members of the Forum who had been approached by the Secretary had agreed to take up the responsibility of Geographical Area Coordinators:

- |                       |                         |                             |                    |                      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Dr. R K Aggarwal   | 2. Dr. Amitabha Basu    | 3. Shri T K Chakravarty     | 4. Shri G P Dixit  | 5. Shri A C Gupta    |
| 6. Dr. Ahok K Gupta   | 7. Dr. S K Gupta        | 8. S K Halder               | 9. Dr. P C Jain    | 10. Dr. S L Jain     |
| 11. Shri A K Kanjilal | 12. Mrs. Santosh Manrai | 13. Shri R L Mendiratta     | 14. Dr. V S Panwar | 15. Shri V K Rustagi |
| 16. Dr. R C Saksena   | 17. Shri S K Sharma     | 18. Mrs. Shashikala Shastri | 19. Shri S S Verma | 20. Shri V P Wasan   |

Copies of the tentative list of members/ prospective members prepared by the Secretary, were also given to those of the above who were present at the meeting indicating that these lists had been drawn, keeping in view their CGHS Wellness Centre Number and the PIN Codes of their residence. However to ensure equitable distribution, in case of some Coordinators, persons served by more than one CGHS Wellness Centre had been included in their lists, which also gave particulars about their address., phone/ mobile numbers and the E-mail IDs where available. In case of the members who had expired, the date on which they expired and contact particulars of their next of kin had also been indicated. In respect of the prospective members of the Forum, their date of leaving NPL and the last post held by them was also given.

The Committee was informed that while it had been possible to accommodate most of the members/ prospective members in the tentative lists prepared in respect of the above listed Geographical Area Coordinators, there were still certain regions in North Delhi, East Delhi, Central Delhi and Faridabad in particular, for which it had not been possible to identify a Geographical Area Coordinator. They may either be taken care of by the above listed Geographical Area Coordinators or by additional such new coordinator. Suggestions in this regard were solicited.

The envisaged work for the Geographical Area Coordinators will be:

- (i) Distribution of copies of the Forum's Newsletter and other Publications of the Forum;
- (ii) Mobilizing participation in meetings of the Forum;
- (iii) Reaching out to other prospective members of the Forum for enrolling them as members;
- (iv) Periodical socializing among members in the area enquiring about their welfare; and

(v) To help the Secretary in up-dating the contact particulars of the Members/ Prospective Members of the Forum regarding any changes in (a) Residential Address, (b) Contact Numbers; (c) E-mail IDs, (d) CGHS Card Number, and (e) CGHS Wellness Centre Number.

It was decided that information about the dates of birth of each may also be indicated in these lists so that they could also be sent greetings to wish them on their birthdays.

**8. Status Reports by the Area Committees:** The Committee was informed that there was nothing new to report about the Publications Committee. As Both the Chairman and the Convener of the Welfare Committee had regretted their inability to attend the meeting, their report could also not be presented. No progress had been made by the Superstitions & Myths Committee. The next meeting of the Scholarships Committee had been fixed for 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

In regard to the Scientific Affairs Committee, Dr. Amitabha Basu informed about the meeting that he had held with Prof. Vikram Kumar on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014, about which Dr. Kailash Chandra had also been informed in response to his suggestions. As there was no progress, he had sent e-mails on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014 to the various members of the Forum as also the Scientists-in-charge of the various activities in the field of Standards of Measurement, enclosing copies of the relevant Chapter related to Units of Measurement appearing in the text book for Class XI prescribed by the NCERT to indicate if anything appearing therein was incorrect/ inadequate/ incomplete etc. and what, in their opinion should be the alternate version of it so that the same could be suitably communicated to the NCERT. They were also requested to suggest incorporation of suitable information relating to Units of Measurement in NCERT Books prescribed for other classes. Vide the same mail they were also requested to indicate their willingness to volunteer their assistance in respect of the proposed visit of a joint team of NPL and the Forum to the National Science Museum to see what exhibits they have in the area of SI Units of Measurement and offer suggestions. Further action will depend upon the response to this e-mail.

**9. Planning for Dr. A P Mitra Memorial Lecture:** The Committee noted that Dr. K K Mahajan (Rs. 1,00,000/-), Dr. B K Das (Rs. 5,000/-) and Dr. Mahesh Chander (Rs. 25,000/-), had already offered to contribute for the Corpus Fund in the name of Dr. A P Mitra, out of which the amount of Rs. 5,000/- had also been received from Dr. B K Das. The Committee endorsed the suggestion made by Dr. S L Jain to have the first Dr. A P Mitra Memorial Lecture on the World Ozone Day (16<sup>th</sup> September 2014). It was decided that the decision may be taken by the Scholarships Committee at its meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

**10. Planning for the Next Meeting of the Forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014:** It was decided to felicitate Shri A R S Vashisht and Shri R S Khandekar, who have already attained the age of 80 years, as new members of the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum. As for the other items of the Agenda, the decision was left to be taken by the Secretary in consultation with the President.

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

## NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Management Committee on  
Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 10.30 A.M in the TEC Conference Room, NPL

### STATUS REPORT BY THE SECRETARY

(Ref: Agenda Item 4)

**1. Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Management Committee** (Ref: Agenda Item 2): The Minutes of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Management Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014, (as approved by the Chairman), had been circulated by the Secretary vide his letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 by post/ courier (as also by e-mail to those who could be so contacted), inviting comments by 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Some typographical errors were pointed out by Dr. S L Jain. These have been made in the Minutes of the Meeting. A copy of the same will be tabled at the time of the meeting.

The following other comments that had been received and the action taken thereon is reported below:

#### 8.2. Welfare Committee

**Dr. V N Bindal:** *The suggestions No. 1 and No. 2 made by me to Welfare Committee are not very difficult to achieve. No. 2 is very simple. We should at least try to approach NPL. It seems that this committee has younger people as its members, who are not sending any medical claims to NPL. This probably may be the reason that they failed to appreciate the situation.*

**Action Taken:** *These are brought to the notice of Dr. S L Jain, Chairman, Welfare Committee*

#### 8.4. Superstitions & Myths Committee

**Dr. V N Bindal:** There is no progress made by the *Superstitions & Myths Committee* for last few years. The M.C may like to consider to reconstitute this committee

**Action Taken:** Dr. Amitabha Basu, Convener of the Committee was sent a mail making the following suggestion:

*Perhaps you could ask Dr. Kailash Chandra if a meeting of the Scientific Affairs Committee and Superstitions and Myths Committee could be arranged before the GBM on 27th May. Then the issues mentioned in the minutes could be clarified and any decisions required to be endorsed by the GBM could be taken up on 27th May.*

#### 10. Institution of an Annual Award for the Best Paper published in Vigyan Pragati and constitution of a Committee for this purpose

**Dr. V N Bindal:** *Prof. Vikram Kumar's suggestion of involving the Director NISCAIR right from the beginning is good. Regarding the formation of the Committee, I would like to submit that in my opinion including experts of various disciplines would neither be practical and nor necessary, due to the following reasons:-*

- (a) *Experts in how many disciplines, can we have? The screening committee should not be very large. It should not have more than four or five members.*
- (b) *These articles are written for the information of lay men (general public) for the popularization of science. These are not research papers. Vigyan Pragati is a Popular Science Magazine. The main requirement is that the articles published in Vigyan Pragati should be informative and should be written in simple language.*

**Action Taken:** *A letter was written by the Secretary to Ms. Deeksha Bist, Acting Director, NISCAIR, relating to this proposal to which a response awaited.*

#### 11. Planning for Dr. A P Mitra Memorial Lecture

**Dr. Amitabha Basu:** *Regarding Dr A P Mitra Memorial Lecture, mentioned at point no 11 of the minutes, I thought that it was decided to try and arrange the lecture as early as possible, in view of the long delay that had occurred and the feelings of Dr Mitra's daughter about this delay. This urgency was not mentioned in the minutes. Also, I thought that it was discussed that the Forum could arrange the lecture on its own, if NPL's financial contribution was not forthcoming immediately, and a local person (Dr. Pachauri preferably or someone else) could be invited so that plane fare and accommodation expenses could be avoided. I feel that the minutes should reflect this urgency and preference for a local speaker, and the President may be asked to kindly try to expedite the lecture arrangements.*

In response the following was communicated to him:

**Action Taken:** *In regard to Dr. A P Mitra Memorial Lecture, the decision cannot be taken unilaterally by the Forum as it has to be decided by a joint NPL-Forum Committee which had been set up by the Scholarships Committee of which Shri S C Garg is the Convener. I am sending this mail to him also so that the feeling of the MC could be placed before that Committee, with Dr. (Ms.) Patralekha Mitra replacing Mrs. Sunanda Mitra as a Member, and giving a feedback to the Scholarships Committee.*

**Dr. V N Bindal:** “The possibility of arranging of this lecture out of Forum’s Funds as reported that. ....this may be done from out of Forum’s funds..... (second line) is not possible. It should be dropped and worded suitably.”

**Action Taken:** *The issue is placed again before the Committee vide Agenda Item 9.*

The Management Committee may confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in the modified form and placed on the table.

**2. Follow-up Action on the Decisions taken at the above Meeting (Ref: Agenda Item 3):** The follow-up action taken in respect of the comments received on the meeting are indicated above. Any other action that has been taken in respect of the other decisions is expected under Item 8 of the Agenda.

**3. Induction of New Members to the Forum (Ref: Agenda Item 5):** Filled up Membership Forms have been received from the following persons whose induction as New Members of the Forum is proposed:

Sr. No.	Name & Date of Birth	Amount Received	Last Post Held	Remarks
1.	Shri N Narayana Swami	Rs. 1,050/- (Cheque)	Tech Offer (C)	Retired with effect from 30. 11. 1997
2.	Dr. Virendra Shanker	Rs. 1,000/- (Cash)	Scientist ‘G’	Retired with effect from 31. 05. 2014
3.	Shri C S Prasanna Kumar	Rs. 1,000/- (Cash)	Scientist ‘G’	Retired with effect from 30. 06. 2006

Some more prospective members, have also been approached for enlisting as members of the Forum, and if their membership forms are received before the meeting, the same shall also be placed before the Committee for approval.

**4. Benevolent Fund:** Prof. Vikram Kumar had brought to the notice of the Forum the financial problems that Dr. B C Chakraborty’s family has been facing on account of his having been in the state of coma for a long time. This was brought to the notice of the members about the desirability of having a Benevolent Fund through contributions from the members for providing assistance in such cases. The status report of funds collected will be placed before the members at the time of the Meeting.

Professor Vikram Kumar has sent the following report to the Secretary about his visit to Dr. B C Chakravarty’s Residence, which is placed before the members for information and necessary action that the Committee may like to take in respect of his suggestions:

“Last Sunday (29/06/2014), Dr S L Jain and I, accompanied by my wife Mrs. Reetam Kumar, visited Dr B C Chakravarty’s residence. We were with the family for well over one hour.

It is sad to inform you that Dr Chakravarty continues to be in coma though he is responsive. When his sister talked to him, he opened his eyes wider and his pupils turned towards me. After gazing at me for a while, he closed his eyes again. Otherwise the family, his sister Shyamali and nephew Deepak, are now well settled into a routine looking after him. They take care of him personally and no nurse etc. is employed. He has to be fed through tubes. Occasionally, he has to be taken to Max Hospital, Saket for change of tubes etc. perhaps once in about six months. This entails calling an ambulance and admitting him to the hospital for a few hours. They are not getting any CGHS benefits as the treatment has been from the beginning from MAX (private hospital) and it is difficult to show him to a CGHS doctor.

We were told that financially they do not have much problem now. Initially they had a lot of difficulty. They told us of the difficulties in getting his pension and the necessity to go to court and high court to get problems sorted out in getting Shyamali recognised as his guardian to receive pension. They talked about the poor support and lack of response from NPL and CSIR in getting these matters sorted out. However, they are now well settled. Bidhan’s pension is reasonable to take care of him now.

I am happy to see the response of fellow FSF members who have generously donated funds for supporting Bidhan Chakravarty. As we have seen that they do not really need monetary support. So what do we do now? There are two possibilities.

**One:** we return the money to all the donors.

**Two:** we give a cheque to Ms Shyamali for whatever we have collected.

Personally, I would prefer the second alternative. After all, money is always needed especially for someone confined like Bidhan. I am sure that occasional visit to Max Saket is also not very cheap. A little bit of our small contribution will be useful for Bidhan at some time.

Further, I would request the executive committee to consider making Bidhan an honorary member of FSF. After all, **if Bidhan could speak, he would surely have become a member.** Probably, there is no such thing as honorary member in FSF. But extra-ordinary conditions need extra-ordinary solutions.”

**5. Dr. A P Mitra Memorial Lecture (Ref: Agenda Item 9):** Shri S C Garg, placed before the members the suggestion made by Prof. R C Budhani, Director, NPL, that persons who had been intimately associated with Dr. Mitra, may make voluntary financial contributions for arranging these lectures. In response to this Dr. K K Mahajan has offered to contribute Rs. 1,00,000/- , and Dr. B K Das has contributed Rs. 5,000/- .

Dr. S L Jain has suggested holding the Lecture on the World Ozone Day (September 16), having already missed World Environment Day (June 5), which had been suggested by Dr. Mahesh Chander. He has also suggested the creation of a Foundation in the name of Dr. A P Mitra, for which he may also be contributing Rs. 25,000/-. He has also offered to collect money from other sources for this Fund.

It is suggested that this issue may also be placed before the Scholarships Committee at its next meeting proposed to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

**6. Planning for the Next Meeting of the Forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 (Ref: Agenda Item 10):** Two more members of the Forum – Shri A R S Vashisht (d.b. 01. 06. 1934) and Shri R S Khandekar (d.b. 01. 07. 1934) have completed the age of 80 years. They may be felicitated as new members of the 80-Plus Fraternity at this meeting. In addition we may also have presentations on life’s experiences by two more members of the 80-Plus Fraternity.

At that meeting we may also place the suggestion of Prof. Vikram Kumar regarding making Dr. B C Chakravarty as Honorary Member of the Forum.