



Society for Biomaterials and Artificial Organs (India)

(Regd. No. 110/86), C/o Central Analytical Facility, Room No. B-202
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Minutes of the First Executive Committee Meeting held online (Microsoft Teams), May 3, 2021, 4:30 PM

Members Present: Dr. Bikramjit Basu, Dr. C.P. Sharma, Prof. Ashok Kumar, Prof. Shrivastava, Dr. Laxmi Nair, Dr. T. M. Sridhar, Dr. Kanagaraj, Dr. Jayakumar, Dr. Balamurugan, Dr. Jayasree, Dr. T S Sampathkumar, Dr. Neetu Singh, Dr. Kaladhar, Dr. A. Siddharthan, and Mr. Willi Paul

Members Absent: Dr. H.K. Varma and Dr. TV Anilkumar

Dr. Bikramjit Basu started the meeting requesting Dr. Kaladhar and Dr. Kanagaraj to self-introduce them, as they were new in the Executive committee. Prof. Bikramjit Basu then presented the present status and vision of the Society. He first thanked Prof. Sharma, founder of the society. He mentioned that the Society was started long ago with a particular vision of bringing all who are working on biomaterials science under one umbrella.

A. President's Vision:

1. Aligning with national policies: One of the objectives of the Society is to organize national conferences from time to time with the financial assistance mainly from the various government departments and private agencies. Previous conferences were attended by delegates from all over India, and from countries like USA, Germany, Netherlands, Turkey, Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom, Canada, China, Malaysia, Australia, Nepal, South Korea, Taiwan etc. Dr. Bikramjit Basu suggested that when Society organizes national conferences, it's a good idea that some of the sessions need to be aligned to the current national healthcare policies of the country. Some of them are Aatmanirbhar, Ayushman Bharat etc. that are promoting biomedical startups and incubators.

2. Expanding SBAOI activities in South Asia: Another suggestion was to promote Biomaterials in South Asia. SBAOI has already established very good relations with Nepal, particularly College of Biomedical Engineering, but also suggest in extending it to other neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In Bangladesh, he noted some activities related to biomaterials in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka and Atomic Energy Commission in Dhaka. Dr. Basu recently contacted a faculty in University of Ceylon in Sri Lanka. Dr. Basu believes that SBAOI can take a lead to promote biomaterials activities and to inspire next generation researchers in South Asia in this field.

3. Linkage with other international societies: Dr. Basu also suggested that SBAOI should more actively participate in IUSBSE event/activities as well as establish strong linkages with European Society for Biomaterials and UK Society for Biomaterials. Dr. Basu is in contact with couple of biomaterials scientists in UK of Indian origin to represent SBAOI in ESB and UKSB which will be finalized soon. It was generally suggested that SBAOI members should attend conferences of IUSBSE recognized societies. These meetings may be widely advertised. Dr. Sharma indicated that some members are already attending different conferences but the strength should be increased so that SBAOI will get more visibility.

4. Introducing New Awards: Dr. Basu suggested introducing a SBAOI Distinguished Scientist Award as the second highest award in the Society. The award recognizes the outstanding global contributions made by a biomaterials scientist, who has made significant contributions to the area of Biomaterials science and bioengineering for human healthcare. Nominations are invited from the candidates, who have made internationally-recognized contributions, while working in academia, industry, or government-funded national laboratory, based in India. The award winner will present an award lecture at the SBAOI annual conference. The award consists of INR10,000, citation certificate, and complimentary registration at SBAOI annual meeting. This was discussed in last AGM during SBAOI virtual conference in Coimbatore, but after due discussions in this EC meeting, the executive committee approved the institution of this award with the following guidelines.

(1) The individual's contribution to the field of Biomaterials in terms of scholarly research publications/patents/technology commercialization, including translational research (bench to bedside). The candidate must have published at least 10 papers in reputed journals, like Biomaterials, Acta Biomaterialia, ACS Applied Materials Interfaces, Nature/Nature Materials/Nature Biomedical Engineering, Science/Science Advances/Science Translational Medicine, based on work entirely carried out in India (i.e. without international collaborations).

(2) The individual's contributions to promoting SBAOI activities, including organizing SBAOI annual meeting, invited/keynote lectures at major international conferences and technical events, and other professional events, which have enhanced the visibility of biomaterials in India.

A nominee must be older than 40 years and should be an active scientist/engineering scientist at the time of award presentation and is required to be a member of the SBAOI for at least 10 preceding years, but not currently on the executive council of the SBAOI and those who received FBAO. Nominations are to be recommended by a sponsor, who should be the past presidents of SBAOI. The deadline for nominations can be July 1 in the year preceding the next SBAOI conference. Nominations (preferably by email), including a written statement of the nominee's qualifications, CV and five best papers (PDF file) and two-page research contributions, may be send to the president, SBAOI. The nominations will be evaluated by five fellows, to be chaired by the current SBAOI Academy of Fellows.

Dr. Sharma indicated that since it is approved by the last GB, the criteria can be decided by the committee. After a lengthy and serious deliberation by the members it was decided to keep these criteria as general and the specific guidelines for the evaluation of candidates will be prepared by the President and will be presented in the award committee. A general consensus was to keep the publications majorly in Biomaterials filed and also books may be considered. High impact journals in respective field and translation research may be considered. Another suggestion was to not to exclude

any committee members from considering for the award. Age limit was decided as minimum of 40 with no upper age limit. Dr. Basu suggested instituting additional awards if we get support from industry. These awards can be instituted if it can be sustained. Prof. Basu is in contact with some industries, and this will be discussed in future meetings.

5. Constituting and restructuring various SBAOI committees: Prof. Basu suggested that SBAOI members should be involved in society activity and should be an integral part of the society. Dr. Sharma suggested that many of the committees can be formed by the President and be placed at the next EC meeting as a reporting item. President opines that the committee may be restructured every three years. Dr. Basu desires to receive an update every three months from the convener of the above committees and for arranging any online meeting, Dr. Sridhar will provide all the logistic support.

a. C P Sharma award committee: It was decided to continue the existing pattern of any five past C P Sharma awardees and current President of SBAOI. Secretary will be coordinating the same.

b. Global Outreach committee: The role of this committee is to promote linkages with the biomaterials community in South Asia as well as to strengthen existing ties with other international biomaterials societies. The committee is as follows,

V. P. Srivastava, CBEA, Nepal (Convener)
Lakshmi Nair, University of Connecticut, USA
Ispita Roy, University of Sheffield, UK
Kaushik Chatterjee, IISc, Bangalore
Geetha Manivasagam, VIT, Vellore

c. Website Committee – It was suggested that 2-3 people from different institutions can be formulated as a Screening Committee. The website can be maintained at SCTIMST.

Willi Paul (Convener)
T. M. Sridhar
Neetu Singh
Kantesh Balani

c. President's council of student advisors: This committee will consist of PhD students/junior scientists from different academia and national labs. More members are to be added soon to this committee.

Soumitra Das, IISc (Convener)
Deepa Mishra, IISc
Shremoyee De, IIT Delhi
K.V. Pratheesh, SCTIMST, Trivandrum
Sushma Indrakumar, IISc Bangalore
Triya Saha, IIT Kanpur
Rohin Shyam, VIT Vellore

d. SBAOI representatives for IUSBSE Executive Board:

Ashok Kumar, IIT Kanpur

Neetu Singh, IIT Delhi

The discussion on the following committees could not be proceeded as the online connection had continuity problems and the meeting had to be terminated. President proposes the constitution of the following committees.

e. Education and Publication committee: The role of this committee to enhance the visibility of the SBAOI journal as well as to organize outreach programs or webinars for the members. This committee will also look at the issue of plagiarism in the papers published in SBAOI journal.

Ashok Kumar (Convener)

Ashutosh Kumar Dubey, IIT(BHU), Varanasi

T S Sampath Kumar, IIT Madras

A. Ballamurugan, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

K. Kaladhar, AMRITA, Kochi

f. President's Advisory committee: The role of this committee is to make strategic planning for the sustained growth of SBAOI. The constitution is as follows,

C P Sharma (Convener)

Veena Koul, IIT Delhi (immediate Past President)

H K Varma, SCTIMST, Trivandrum (Past President)

g. Industrial affairs committee: The role of this committee is to develop strategies to meaningfully engage the MNC/MSME/start ups in the area of biomaterials. The constitution is as follows and more members to be added.

Arvind Sinha, CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur (Convener)

H. Vijayakumar, Trumed Lifescience Solutions Private Limited, Chennai

Subrata Mukherjee, TATA Steel New Materials Business

Subhdip Bhodak, CSIR-CGCRI Kolkata

Manoj Komath, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram

h. Program and Membership committee: The role of this committee is to pursue membership drive across the academia, national labs and industries, both in India and South Asia. The convener of the SBAOI annual meeting will be the special invitee to all the meetings of this committee.

T. M. Sridhar (Convener)

S. Kanagaraj, IIT Guwahati

Debrupa Lahiri, IIT Roorkee

A. Siddharthan, Anna University, Chennai

i. Finance committee: The role of this committee is to regularly assess the financial status of the SBAOI and to ensure that all the financial documents from the past conferences are submitted to SBAOI, after due audit process.

R.S. Jayasree, SCTIMST, Treasurer (Convener)

T.V. Anilkumar, SCTIMST, Trivandrum

T.M. Sridhar, SCTIMST, Trivandrum

R. Jayakumar, AMRITA, Kochi

B. Discussion on 2028 WBC:

We have submitted a bid for the 2028 World Biomaterials Congress (WBC) during WBC 2020, and SFB USA is our competitor. Dr. Sharma indicated that IUSBSE were supposed to meet in April-June but no decision was taken so far and, Prof. Ashok Kumar and Neetu Singh will be representing SBAOI in the next meeting. He suggested them to present our case diplomatically such a way that SBAOI will win the bid. Dr. Lakshmi Nair also indicated that the meeting was postponed because of COVID and no discussion has been taken place till now on 2028 bid. Dr. Ashok Kumar assured that along with Dr. Neetu Singh the case will be taken up strongly.

President thanks all the members of the executive committee for their valuable time and contributions to the discussion.

Meeting ended at 6:00 PM.

Prof. Bikramjit Basu

President