

Minutes of the annual GBM at Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore on 11th November 2017

Dr Rajasekaran welcomed all dignitaries and delegates to the ANBAI Annual General Body Meeting. There were over 150 delegates from 82 Institutions all over India. He expressed special thanks to Dr Abhijat Sheth, Dr Rashmikant Dave and Dr Devi Shetty for taking time out of their busy schedule and grace the occasion by their august presence. He also appreciated the continuous support and guidance given by Dr Alexander Thomas in carrying forward the activities of ANBAI. Dr Rajasekaran also mentioned the efforts of Dr HS Chhabra in carrying out the functions of Secretarial office so efficiently over the years. He appreciated the active support of all the State Presidents and State Chapters in furthering the cause of ANBAI.

Dr HS Chhabra then briefed all about the agenda and welcomed Dr Kishore Babu, Treasurer to present Treasurer's report and annual budget.

Dr Kishore Babu presented the audited accounts statement. Bank balance as on 11/11/2017 was a deficit of Rs. 96,833. The Treasurer said that Rs 5000 was collected from ANBAI institutes during the financial year. He also informed that the Auditor's fees of Rs 29,500 was paid (inclusive of GST). Dr Babu informed that some funds remaining from the Teacher's day celebration shall be utilized for compensating the deficit in the current budget. He then informed all that the account shall be transferred to a new account once a fresh registration of ANBAI is done at New Delhi.

Dr Chhabra then invited Dr Alexander Thomas to give Presidential address.

Dr Alexander thanked all delegates and dignitaries for taking the time and effort to attend the meeting. He described in short the achievements of the ANBAI over the last few years and how a very positive, exemplary and mutually beneficial relationship is blossoming between ANBAI and NBE. Dr Alex commended ANBAI to take up actively the issues of equivalency, uniform learning resource and DNB alumni.

Dr Chhabra then presented Secretary's Report.

Data Mining - This ongoing initiative was undertaken to get its members to network together and to have the database of its members. As per present data base there are 524 institutions for the 72 specialties.

Periodic interactions amongst Governing Council members—There has been periodic interactions both with regards to personal meetings one held in Coimbatore to finalize constitution of the new society as well as regular conference calls on various occasions to deliberate on important issues.

National Health Conclave - A meeting of the National Health Conclave was held on the Theme of 'Chronic Care – Innovation, Opportunities & Challenges' on 10th & 11th Aug, 2017, at National Board of Examination (NBE), Dwarka, New Delhi. Over two days more than 60 eminent doctors and professionals participated as speakers and panelists. ANBAI played a prominent role in organisation of the conclave. ANBAI was represented by almost all the members of the governing council and Dr Devi Shetty. Several ministers and Secretary level Govt. Officials participated, including Dr Soumaya Swaminathan.

Teachers day celebration - ANBAI organised Teachers day celebration on 5th September at auditorium, NBE, Dwarka, New Delhi. On this occasion, award distribution function was held honouring 17 distinguished DNB teachers and Institutions in various categories as per the traditions of NBE (National Board of Examinations).

Following awards were conferred on this occasion:

1. Emeritus Teacher Award
2. Eminent NBE Alumnus Award
3. Distinguished DNB Teacher(s) of Excellence Award
4. Excellence in Teaching for DNB Program- NBE Accredited Hospital
5. Scroll of Honour- NBE Accredited Hospital

The event had several dignitaries from all over India, including Dr Abhijat Sheth, Dr Rashmikant Dave, Dr Devi Shetty, Dr Jayshree Mehta, Maj. HPS

Ahluwalia, Dr Pawan Kapoor, Dr Girdhar Gyani and many eminent doctors and teachers.

The event started with a panel discussion on 'Educational strategies to meet the health care manpower needs of this country and bridge the gap'.

Uniform Learning Resource - As reported earlier, ANBAI had partnered with National Board of Examinations to work on a Uniform Learning Resource. Realising the importance of quality scientific resources (journals/ books etc.) in higher education in healthcare, ANBAI is trying to explore and facilitate a system, which will enable the end users and their institutions access a quality and standard content at a substantially economic price. A survey has been designed by Wiley and being distributed through ANBAI to get details of current use, requirements and expenditure of 25 pilot institutions. Results of the survey shall be analyzed to take it further.

Dissolution & Reconstitution of Society- Efforts are on to register the new ANBAI Society in New Delhi. This activity got a setback as the registrar of the societies objected to the use of the word 'National' in the name of the association. After lot of efforts and meeting top govt. Officials it seems to be resolved and permission is expected soon.

Liaisoning – Another role of ANBAI is liaisoning with National Board of Examinations and other Government agencies. As an ongoing effort for seeking equivalence in MD and DNB degrees, after several meetings with PMO and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ANBAI received a letter from the Under Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 21st August 2017 that the PMO has instructed the Ministry to request MCI to provide ministry amendment proposal in TEQ regulations deleting 3 years junior residency and to specifically mention DNB along with MD/MS in academic qualifications for various faculty posts. Further meetings with PMO and Ministry are being arranged.

Ethical & Legal prospective and Capping - Another area where work has been going on is capping on compensation for medical malpractice law suit in India. ANBAI held a National Health Conclave and had deliberations with invited experts in the field of Ethical & legal prospective of healthcare in India.

Co-partner with ISCoS for SCI Day - The International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) and ANBAI celebrated on 05th September, 2017 the Spinal Cord Injury day at Rajpath in New Delhi. It was attended by a huge number of wheelchair participants and the occasion was graced by Minister of State for Culture, Dr Mahesh Sharma.

Formation of Alumni committee - It is proposed to have “DNB Alumni and Teachers Committee” . The members of the committee would be HCO’s who are members of ANBAI. They would be represented by the Alumni by the HCO as well as teachers who have passed DNB from that HCO” . This activity shall be divided in three zones:

North Zone: J & K, Haryana, Uttara Khand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Central Zone: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odissa.

South Zone: Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

Dr Lingaiah and Dr Govind Hari shall be liaising with the executive committee of ANBAI for the alumni activities with three regional co-ordinators:

North zone Dr Gururaj, **Central zone** Dr Pradeep Mishra and **South zone** Dr TS Srinath.

It is suggested to have token money as membership fees, of Rs 500 for annual membership and Rs 2000 for life member.

Outsourcing media partner- It is proposed to have Medical Dialogues as our media partner on a regular basis for all ANBAI media requirements. A fee of 5% plus GST be paid for the services rendered for each alumni member recruited through their website.

State Chapters- Another initiative under the leadership of the President was the consolidation of the State Chapter Governing Councils of ANBAI. Several state chapters of the Association held different activities so that ANBAI

could continue to work further and serve the objectives of the society. Some of the State chapters have conducted academic activities and workshops and also published their Newsletter.

Plan of Action for the coming year

The plan of action for coming year included focus on Membership drive especially alumni, academics at State Level, Uniform Learning Resource, liaisoning with NBE, liaisoning with Government for parity of NBE & MCI courses & convocation of NBE at the earliest.

The GBM unanimously approved the minutes of the last meeting, authorized Governing body to reconstitute State Presidents and State Chapter co-ordinators, co-ordinators of DNB alumni and Teachers committee, transfer of account to new account at New Delhi, dissolution of current society and re-registration of the society after NOC from the Ministry, new office bearers, hiring of Medical Dialogues as media representative and selecting venue of next GBM. Dr Rajasekaran proposed that Dr Alexander Thomas continue as the President for next two years, the GBM unanimously agreed for that and requested Dr Alexander Thomas to continue as President for next two years and Dr Rajasekaran as President elect.

It was followed by Lamp lighting ceremony by the dignitaries present.

It was followed by a panel discussion on 'Postgraduate Medical education in India: current scenario and way forward'. The moderator was Dr Rajasekaran and panelists were Dr Devi Shetty, Dr Abhijat Sheth, Dr Rashmikant Dave, and Dr Alexander Thomas.

Dr Devi Shetty was of the opinion that commercialization of the post graduate programs in India has affected the quality of graduating students, as any system which does not scrutinize the aptitude and quality of input cannot deliver quality output.

Dr Dr Abhijat Sheth was of the opinion that objective tools need to be put in force to get parity in quality from different institutions like leading private

sector and Govt. Sector hospitals. Also the quality of training may differ between different courses within the same Institute. It depends on how much bedside training and theoretical training is enforced in a particular specialty.

Dr Rashmikant Dave emphasized the need to have standard resources, common syllabus and common entrance and exit examinations for all the post graduate training all over India. So for example, the entrance or exit examinations for MD, MS, and DNB and for MCH and FNB in respective specialties should be conducted by same team respectively.

Dr Alex agreed with previous panelists and emphasized the need to have quality teachers. He wanted to have some program to train teachers throughout India and make it mandatory for teaching post graduate courses.

The panel discussion was followed by a thought provoking exciting presentation by Dr Devi Shetty. He mesmerized the audience with the projected future of health industry and how clinical medicine will be practiced in coming years.

Then there was direct interaction of ANABI Institute representatives and DNB students with the President and Executive Secretary of NBE (Dr Sheth and Dr Dave respectively).

Some of the questions asked were as follows:

Why MCH can appear for DNB/FNB, but FNB cannot take MCH.

Dr Sheth replied that it is under the preview of MCI and not NBE.

Several questions were directed towards accreditation of institutes are not easily granted. Dr Sheth made it very clear that there are some statutory requirements which are not compromised at all, but other requirements can be overlooked depending upon fulfilling those in a time bound fashion. He elaborated the four pillars of essential requirements:

- 1) Qualified Teachers

- 2) Committed to teach
- 3) Good infrastructure
- 4) Adequate Resources

What are Qualifications of senior residents allowed to teach

Dr Dave replied that it is essential that senior residents have atleast 3 years of post graduate teaching experience in a institute of 500 beds. Regarding persons having Diploma and 5 years of work experience should be allowed as senior resident. Dr Sheth said that such is not permitted yet but may be discussed in governing body with accreditation committee.

A person doing DNB is a specialty but having thesis in a superspecialty topic should be allowed to have Superspecialty teacher as guide (currently they are allowed only as a co-guide).

Dr Dave said they can propose it in the accreditation committee and have it discussed with the experts.

Sometimes the number of consultants working in the department are as mentioned in the accreditation form is not honoured but form 16 is checked and details of even bank transfers are demanded.

Dr Sheth said that it is necessitated because some institutions have exploited this requirement and submitted false documents.

NBE wants the institutes to have updated database of all the students who have enrolled from that institute. Sometimes the students have finished their residency and left the institute without passing the DNB exam. The institute has no way to know if that student later passed the exam unless student himself informs them. Therefore it should be maintained at the NBE.

Dr Dave said it can be discussed with the examination cell of NBE.

Some of the examiners are very critical and nasty to the students so there should a mechanism of feedback from students or peer examiners.

De Sheth said that this type of individual behavior is very difficult to monitor or document but the suggestions are well taken and feedback can be improved.

Some of the teachers are very poor in teaching, how to improve them.
Dr Sheth said that they are proposing to start teacher training and monitoring process and even helping the under performing institutes having high failure rates in the exams.

Still there are long delays in informing accreditation status.
Dr Dave said that processes have been considerably improved in last couple of years and better service should be seen henceforth.

Thesis approval takes a long time.
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Students doing two years program should be allowed to do thesis on retrospective data.
Dr Sheth said that a retro-prospective format should be explored in such cases.

Students joining in first week of July are not allowed to appear for examination in the June batch.
Dr Sheth replied that it did happen in the past as first session cycle ends in June and fresh session starts in July, but assured that in future such students shall be allowed to appear with June session but it should be brought to the NBE notice asap.

Internal assessment marks should be part of final examination.
Dr Sheth said it is a good idea and he shall discuss with the academic committee if 15-20% marks be of internal assessment.

FET results are delayed and counseling gets delayed, even seats are lost if the student does not join the Institute. Should some fees be not refunded.
Dr Dave said they are looking into it.

The fees should be increased specially in view of the 7th pay commission recommending increase in the stipends.
Decision is pending with NBE.

Doctors with over 10-15 years of clinical experience but having diploma and not MD/DNB should be allowed to teach.

Dr Sheth said that is being already considered and some mechanism of lateral entry to the DNB program is being explored and maybe in future such doctors may be allowed to appear for DNB exam directly and if they pass they shall be given DNB degrees but it still is under consideration only by the accreditation committee and no decision is yet taken.

The time given to submit thesis protocol is very short. Student should be allowed to send only the topic and guide's name but details could be sent later.

Dr Sheth said that he will discuss it with the academic committee of DNB.

Students should be allowed to do 6 months of externship for DNB, 3 months of FNB for subspecialty experience especially for institutions in remote areas like Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland etc.

Dr Sheth said that NBE is developing the details of externship program alongwith ANBAI.

When will convocation be held.

Dr Sheth said that NBE has estimated that 3 or more convocations are needed to clear all the backlog of students. NBE is planning to have convocation in Feb 2018, followed by 2 more (to cover 10,000 students).

What should be given to the students, Stipend or salary.

Dr Sheth said that stipend is a better option.

Some members wanted to have a NBE regional office in Southern India.

Dr Sheth said that currently there are no proposals for setting up branch offices.

Since the premier institute of a particular specialty may be located in a different geographical area, some students find it difficult to understand patients as they speak unfamiliar language.

To overcome this few institutions hold special language classes for the students and within few weeks students learn sufficient key words to

communicate with the patients.

Redressal committee should be formed to appeal against rejection of accreditation.

Dr Sheth said it is not possible to have a separate committee but said that NBE is open to work with the Institute to help them overcome shortcomings but no compromise is possible with the statutory requirements.

NBE should allow combined classes of Basic Sciences.

Dr Dave said that if the students are of same institute, it may be allowed.

There were some repeat questions from last two GBM.

Finally, Dr Abhijat Sheth, President, NBE and Dr Rashmikant Dave, Executive Secretary, NBE launched the “DNB Alumni and Teachers Committee” .

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair