

ASCoN Executive Committee Meeting

An unscheduled meeting took place of ASCoN Executive Committee members present at ISSICoN.

Date: Sunday 5th March 2006

Time: 1:45pm – 2:45pm

Venue: Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

Present: Dr Hoque, Dr Sinha, Eric Weerts, Cyril Siriwardane, Esha Thapa, Maggie Muldoon

Agenda

1. 6th ASCoN Conference
2. ASCoN Guiding Principles
3. AOB

Minutes

1. 6th ASCoN Conference.

The 6th ASCoN conference will be hosted by CRP Bangladesh from Mon 4th – Wed 6th December 2006. The theme of the conference is Comprehensive Management and Prevention of Spinal Injuries. The reasons for selecting this theme was that it was felt that CRP offered a good model of Comprehensive Management and there was a need to focus on Prevention as this was currently an area that is neglected.

During an initial meeting held at CRP last week, it was suggested that the Scientific Committee should comprise of people from within and outside of Bangladesh. It was agreed that external Scientific Committee members would therefore include the ASCoN Executive Committee members, Prof JJ Wyndaele and Stephen Muldoon.

Scientific Committee Members:

Chairperson: Prof Rashiduddin

Secretary: Dr Fazlul Hoque

Members: Prof Wyndaele (Belguim)	Prof Salam (Bangladesh)
Prof Ata Alahi Khan, (Bangladesh)	Dr HS Chhabra, (India)
Dr Sinha (India),	Dr Apichana, (Thailand),
Prof ThanToe, (Myanmar)	Esha Thapa (Nepal),
Cyril Siriwardane (Sri Lanka)	Eric Weerts (Vietnam)
Maggie Muldoon (Sri Lanka)	Stephen Muldoon (Sri Lanka)
Sohrab Hossain (Bangladesh)	Ehsunul Ambia (Bangladesh)

Communication between members of the scientific committee will take place mainly through email.

The first announcement and call for abstracts was circulated at the ISSICoN 2006 (2nd announcement attached).

Suggestions on the structure and content/topics of the 6th ASCoN conference received from ASCoN Ex Committee were as follows:

1. Economic cost/Health Economics of spinal injury services and cost of setting up services. (Invite Apichana and Eric to focus on this area. Eric also to get other resource persons)
2. Training programmes/Human Resource Development for professionals involved in SCI management in the region.
3. Management of SCI services
4. Decentralisation of services to other centres nationally.
5. After hospital treatment and discharge – what next? What is done for the patient following discharge? What are the solutions to prevent complications following discharge? (Cyril to present Sri Lanka experience ie Spinal Injuries Association of Sri Lanka focusing on social integration and training)
Need to invite others to present their experiences.

Workshops suggested:

- 1. One day workshop focusing on Conservative Management, to be broken up into the following sessions:**

Nursing Management
 Bowel and Bladder Management
 Physical Rehabilitation – PT and OT
 Counselling and Sexuality

- 2. Basic Splinting**

One Session to be devoted to **Surgical and Conservative Management**

Why does one choose Surgical Management or Conservative management?

How do you decide and what are the indicators?

Action:

Invite the following resource persons to present at this session:

Dr Hoque (Bangladesh experience)
 Dr Chhabra and Dr Sinha (India experience)
 Dr Apichana (Thailand experience)
 Mr El Masri (UK experience)

Others resource persons to be suggested by members of the ASCoN Executive Committee.

- 3. Other Workshops**

Dr Sinha is willing to facilitate a workshop and will consider any suggested topics from the organising committee.

Special Consideration for support for PG students/junior doctors.

Dr Sinha suggested that the organising committee should make some special consideration for Post Graduate students to attend ASCoN 2006 conference as incentives could be used to induct this younger generation to the speciality of SCI management. He requested consideration for reduced registration fees and accommodation.

Action: Organising Committee to take decision on forms of support, if any, to be offered.

4. ASCoN Guiding Principles

The ASCoN Guiding Principles were printed in Bangalore at end of February and shipped to New Delhi. In the initial run 5,000 copies were printed. Unfortunately they did not arrive in time to be formally launched at ISSICoN 2006. It was suggested that the Guiding Principles be formally launched at the 6th ASCoN Conference in Dhaka in December 2006.

Re distribution, the ASCoN Ex Comm members will be responsible for distribution in their respective countries. Suggested points of distribution include:

Spinal units – all members of multi-disciplinary team to receive a copy.

Various organisations such Medical Colleges and bodies/societies such as Spinal Cord Society; Societies of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Rehab Physicians.

All participants of ISSICoN 2006.

Participants of ASCoN Conference 2006.

Action: Maggie to take responsibility of distributing Guiding Principles to ASCoN Executive Committee and ASCoN members, once they arrive.

ASCoN Executive Committee to take responsibility of distributing the Guiding Principles within their respective countries.

The members present requested the following quantities of Guiding Principles to be despatched to them:

Dr Hoque	30 copies;	Eric Weerts	300 copies
Esha Thapa	30 copies;	Dr Sinha	300 copies
Cyril Siriwardane	100 copies;	Dr Chhabra	1,700 copies

5. Ongoing Research

Eric discussed a collaborative research project currently being undertaken on ICF with Chiang Mai (Dr Apichana) and HRPD Vietnam (30 patients), through WHO and a University in Munich on comparisons of functional outcomes. The goal of the research is to select sets of categories out of the whole classification which can serve as the minimal standards for acute hospitals and early post-acute rehab facilities.

Dr Sinha is interested in participating in this type of research project and requested the questionnaire and guidelines currently being used in Vietnam to be forwarded to him.

Action: Eric to forward info to Dr Sinha.

6. ASCoN Resource Person Database

It was suggested that ASCoN should develop a core team of multi-disciplinary members who can work in other centres/countries for short placements in order to develop services and train personnel.

Action: Executive Committee to consider how to proceed with this suggestion