

NOVEMBER 2011



# A.S.S.I.

NEWS

## FROM THE **PRESIDENT'S DESK**



Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to inform you that our Association is progressing very well in the academic front and would like to inform you of two important new initiatives that have been started this year.

Indian Spine Registry

1) Firstly, the long felt need for Indian Spine Surgery Registry is now coming true. Synthes has very generously accepted for a huge grant of USD 100,000 spread for five years for the creation and maintenance of Indian Spine Registry. The modalities, formation and function of the registry are under discussion. The Registry will most probably start functioning from ASSICON 2012.

A.S.S.I. Supplement in European Spine Journal

2) A separate A.S.S.I. Supplement in European Spine Journal – We have received invitation from ESJ for publication of a separate supplement that will highlight the work of the members of A.S.S.I. This will be a great opportunity to improve our international presence and to showcase the quality of spine surgery work done in India. The supplement will carry approximately 15 articles. Members are requested to kindly submit their work. It is our desire that this should be one of the best supplements produced by ESJ.

ICSS 2011 was a great success with a fantastic venue and a good scientific programme.

On behalf of A.S.S.I, I would like to thank Dr. Sajan Hegde and Dr. K Appaji Krishnan for organising such a good event.

ASSICON 2012 in Delhi is blooming into what would surely be a memorable event. We are having very eminent international and national faculty members and I would urge all our members to participate in the meeting and make it a grand success.

With best regards

Yours in A.S.S.I.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rajasekaran'.

Dr. S. Rajasekaran, Ph.D.

President - A.S.S.I.

## FROM THE **SECRETARY'S DESK**



Dear Colleagues,

It has been a pleasure & honour being the Secretary & Treasurer of the Association of Spine Surgeon's of India for a second term.

The Silver Jubilee Year has heralded many new ventures thanks to our President, Dr. Rajasekaran. He has spearheaded the successful launch of the "A.S.S.I. text book", the "A.S.S.I. fellowships" & is now leading us towards an "Indian Spine Registry" & a dedicated A.S.S.I. supplement in "European Spine Journal".

Looking forward to many a new activity towards "Safe Spine Surgery". The Association of Spine Surgeon's of India needs each one of you to come forward and participate in all our activities.

Looking forward to meeting you all at ASSICON-2012, New Delhi in the last week of February 2012.

Regards,

**Dr. Ram Chaddha**

*Secretary & Treasurer - A.S.S.I.*



Greetings...

I am pleased to inform you that the A.S.S.I. website ([www.assi.in](http://www.assi.in)) is now fully functional. Please browse through the entire website and I look forward to your feedback.

The website has many interactive features like interesting cases, forthcoming events, fellowship details and also facility for uploading the publication of A.S.S.I. members. We will be pleased to host publication of articles from A.S.S.I. members in peer reviewed journals in the last two years. You may please forward the details of your publication along with ISSN number to [sr@gangahospital.com](mailto:sr@gangahospital.com) and [ajoyshetty@gmail.com](mailto:ajoyshetty@gmail.com). Members who are interested in your publication will then contact you directly for a copy of your article.

Also, if you have interesting cases, you may please send the same to [sr@gangahospital.com](mailto:sr@gangahospital.com) and [ajoyshetty@gmail.com](mailto:ajoyshetty@gmail.com). This will be hosted after vetting. Similarly, if you have any interesting matter to be hosted in the 'Discussion Forum', please send it to the above email IDs so that it can be hosted. We have also got a separate section - 'Forthcoming Events' where all spine events of interest can be hosted on a calendar and links provided to facilitate uploading of further information if they are available. Please do make use of this also and send us all educational events that are happening.

We once again request you to go through the A.S.S.I. website and send your feedback to [ajoyshetty@gmail.com](mailto:ajoyshetty@gmail.com) with a copy to Dr. S. Rajasekaran.

With best regards,

**Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty**

*Executive Committee Member - A.S.S.I.*

*Incharge of A.S.S.I. Website*

# Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting of the “Association of Spine Surgeons of India” held at Hotel Trident, Mumbai on Saturday, January 29, 2011

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India was held on January 29, 2011 at Hotel Trident, Mumbai. The attendees were as per register. Dr. S. Rajasekaran, President A.S.S.I. was in the chair and called the meeting to order.

- 1. Condolences:** There were no condolences.
- 2. Passing the minutes of the A.G.B.M. Nagpur & E.G.B.M. Mysore:** There was a discussion about the venue for ICS – August, 2011 – Kaziranga. Dr. Shantanu Lahakar was originally to organize the said meeting. However, his unavailability at ICS-2010, Mysore and lack of communication despite best attempts of the President, Dr. S. Rajasekaran and Secretary, Dr. Ram Chaddha, prompted the Executive Committee, after the opinion of the house at the E.G.B.M. – Mysore to offer ICS – 2011 to Dr. Sajan Hegde / Dr. Appaji Krishnan – Chennai / Mahabalipuram. Dr. Shantanu Lahakar had attended the Executive Committee meeting of the A.S.S.I. on Friday, January 28, 2011 at the same venue & was explained the situation. He accepted the decision and offered to do a meeting in future. He was, however, unavailable for comment at the A.G.B.M. The minutes of the last A.G.B.M. – Nagpur – January, 2010 & minutes of the E.G.B.M. Mysore – August 2010 were passed – proposed by Dr. D. K. Taneja, seconded by Dr. Anil Jain.
- 3. Secretarial Report:** The Secretary, Dr. Ram Chaddha mentioned the inability of the two selected A.S.S.I. travelling fellows to complete their fellowship due to ill-health. The house was not willing to carry forward the same for the coming year, however, the two members, could re-apply for the fellowship for the coming years. The lack of applications was also discussed by the General Body. Dr. D. K. Taneja proposed that if INR 25,000/- was less, may be the fellowship amount could be raised to INR 50,000/-. Dr. Ram Chaddha suggested – INR 50,000/- for one fellowship rather than two could make this fellowship more lucrative and prestigious. Dr. Janardhan Aithala

suggested offering it to a practitioner and allowing him to choose the Centre / Mentor. The Secretary informed that the Centre / Mentor was always chosen in discussion with the fellows. Dr. Samir Dalvie & Dr. Jwalant Mehta felt that A.S.S.I. should reimburse actual. Final proposal by Dr. Vilas Jog, seconded by Dr. Appaji Krishnan - two fellowships per year, A.S.S.I. to reimburse actual for travel and stay – (2nd AC train / air whichever lower + reasonable accommodation in discussion with local co-ordinator). The Secretarial Report as printed by Dr. Ram Chaddha was passed proposed by Dr. Arvind Bhawe, seconded by Dr. Vishal Peshattiwari.

- 4. Accounts & Income Tax Status:** The balance sheets were presented by Dr. H. S. Chhabra. The balance sheets of the previous three ICS and ASSICON were pending and the organizers were informed to send them to the Secretary / Jt. Secretary at the earliest, as all events of the A.S.S.I. were to be shown and audited. There was a suggestion by Dr. S. M. Hardikar, Dr. Sivakumar and others to shift the profit, if any from the events conducted to the “A.S.S.I. – Education Foundation”, if it would help the association with some tax saving. This was in view of the fact, that the expenditure annually did not necessarily, exceed the income / profit, hence the A.S.S.I. was probably paying tax which could be saved. Dr. H. S. Chhabra was to look at the proposal and take a decision, best for the A.S.S.I.
- 5. A.S.S.I. Education Foundation:** Dr. S. Rajasekaran informed the house that the “A.S.S.I. – Education Foundation” has been proposed and will include as trustees, the Immediate Past-President, the President, the Secretary, the Jt. Secretary & three more senior members. This Foundation would get funding from the industry, besides other contributions from A.S.S.I. activities and try to spend 80% each year towards education & research activities. Dr. H. S. Chhabra was to look into the best options after

discussing with the auditors and accountants of the A.S.S.I.

**6. ICS – 2011, Chennai - Dates, Venue & Theme:**

Dr. Sajan Hegde, Dr. Appaji Krishnan: The theme suggested for the ICS – 2011 – Chennai was “Deformity”. The proposed dates were August 12-14, 2011 at the Radisson Blu Temple Bay Resort, Mahabalipuram. The earlier proposed dates a week later were clashing with the OASICON, the Orthopaedic Conference of Southern Indian States which had a large number of common members and organisers. Dr. Atul Goel suggested we should look at a neurosurgery friendly topic. The house concurred and agreed that future meetings should take the suggestion. Dr. Gautam Zaveri felt that foreign faculty should be avoided. He felt they waste time and do not join in / contribute to sessions. Dr. S. Rajasekaran felt Dr. Gautam Zaveri had a point. Dr. Sajan Hegde felt four halls at the ASSICON – 2011 contributed to their lack of participation at all venues. Dr. Raghavan felt more papers from delegates should be included. He also felt that the conference kit must contain a conference book with details of all scientific deliberations. Dr. Shankar Acharya desired clarification about Dr. Gautam Zaveri's comment. He wanted a clarification as to a ceiling on the number of foreign faculty or ceiling on the payment by the A.S.S.I. towards the foreign faculty!!. Dr. Raghav Dutt vehemently confirmed that the A.S.S.I. is not paying any of the foreign faculty. The travel and local hospitality is borne by the local organisers. Dr. Abhay Nene clarified the stand of the local organising committee and mentioned how a ceiling on the amount for travel was communicated in the initial correspondence with all the foreign faculty and only those who accepted the invitation thereafter were on board. Dr. Arvind Jayaswal proposed that both the ASSICON-2011, Mumbai and ASSICON-2012, New Delhi are special events considering these are “Silver Jubilee” meetings and the effort of the Mumbai local organisers should be appreciated and applauded.

**7. ASSICON-2012, New Delhi – Dates & Venue:**

Dr. H. S. Chhabra: Dr. H.S. Chhabra confirmed the dates from February 23-26, 2012 at Hotel “Le Meridien” – New Delhi. The brochure for the same was released and circulated. Dr. Raghavan suggested that workshops need to be included. Dr. Shankar Acharya

took suggestions about having “Day Registration” options as well for people who would like to attend just a day or two and not the entire conference. The house felt this was not as per conventions of the A.S.S.I., but the local organisers and the executive committee could look at this option after balancing the pros and cons. Dr. H. S. Chhabra, Dr. Arvind Jayaswal and the entire Delhi Spine team invited the members to attend the ASSICON-2012 in large numbers.

**8. A.S.S.I. Orator - 2012:** Dr. S. Rajasekaran explained the reasons for Dr. Devi Shetty's last minute inability to attend as A.S.S.I. – Orator – 2011. He was called in to attend a meeting being convened by the Health Ministry in New Delhi. Dr. D. K. Taneja suggested “Dr. Naresh Trehan” as the “A.S.S.I. – Orator – 2012” – New Delhi. Dr. V. T. Ingalthalikar seconded the same. The local organisers along with the President Dr. S. Rajasekaran would contact and confirm the participation of Dr. Naresh Trehan.

**9. Ratification of New Members:** Between ASSICON-2010, Nagpur and ASSICON – 2011, Mumbai – 81 new membership applications were received. At ASSICON – 2011, Mumbai a further 66 applications were received. The applications were checked, verified and ratified.

**10. Election of Office Bearers:** Dr. Ram Chaddha read out the suggestions of the nomination committee:

**ASSOCIATION OF SPINE SURGEONS OF INDIA  
NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The nomination committee of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India includes:

- Dr. PK Dave
- Dr. VT Ingalthalikar
- Dr. Shekhar Y Bhojraj
- Dr. Arvind Jayaswal
- Dr. S Rajasekaran

The suggestions of the committee are as follows:

1. The Association of Spine Surgeons of India should have an executive committee to manage the activities for the said time period. It will comprise of the following:

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Life members of the Association can be co-opted by the executive

committee for a specific purpose for a specific period. These members should be life members of the association for a period of 3 years at the least.

**MEMBERS:** Six (6) life members shall form the executive committee for a total term of three (3) years each. No member will be elected for a second term as member. Every year two (2) members will complete their term and two (2) new members will be elected. The elected life members need to satisfy the following criteria: - should be a life member for 3 years at the least & have actively participated in the activities of the Association for the past three years, attended as delegate a minimum of three (3) meetings or as paper/poster presenter or faculty in two (2) meetings of the past six meetings of the A.S.S.I. i.e. ASSICON and ICS.

**JOINT-SECRETARY:** One life member shall be elected as Joint Secretary of the A.S.S.I. for a term of three (3) years. He is eligible to serve as Joint-Secretary for a maximum of two terms. Besides having completed the term as "member" of the executive committee, he should have completed six years as life member of the A.S.S.I. and have attended six (6) of the past twelve (12) meetings of the A.S.S.I. i.e. ASSICON and ICS. He should have organized at least one ASSICON / ICS as Organizing Secretary / Organizing Chairman.

**SECRETARY & TREASURER:** One life member shall be elected as Secretary & Treasurer of the A.S.S.I. for a term of three (3) years. He is eligible to serve as Secretary & Treasurer for a maximum of two terms. Besides having completed the term as "member" of the executive committee, he should have completed six years as life member of the A.S.S.I. and have attended six (6) of the past twelve (12) meetings of the A.S.S.I. i.e. ASSICON and ICS. He should have organized at least one ASSICON / ICS as Organizing Secretary / Organizing Chairman.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** One life member shall be elected as Vice-President of the A.S.S.I. for a term of two (2) years. He is eligible to serve as Vice-President for one term only. Besides having completed the term as "member" of the executive committee, he should have completed nine years as life member of the A.S.S.I. and have attended nine (9) of the past eighteen (18) meetings of the A.S.S.I. i.e. ASSICON and ICS. He

should have organized at least one ASSICON / ICS as Organizing Secretary / Organizing Chairman.

**PRESIDENT:** One life member shall be elected as President of the A.S.S.I. for a term of two (2) years. He is eligible to serve as President for a maximum of two terms. Besides having completed the term as "member" of the executive committee, he should have completed nine years as life member of the A.S.S.I. and have attended nine (9) of the past eighteen (18) meetings of the A.S.S.I. i.e. ASSICON and ICS. He should have organized at least one ASSICON & one ICS as Organizing Secretary / Organizing Chairman.

The A.S.S.I. shall form various committees from time to time for specific purpose for a specific period comprising of life members. The President and Secretary will be members of all these committees and the said committee will present their report to the executive committee before implementing any decisions. These committees include Organizing Committees of the ASSICON, ICS and any other activity or event of the A.S.S.I. All committees will be named the A.S.S.I. "-----"Committee like A.S.S.I. Scientific Committee, A.S.S.I. Medico-legal Committee etc...

All PAST-PRESIDENTS will remain members of the Executive Committee for life and will be eligible to attend and participate in all executive committee meetings.

Signed

- Dr. P K Dave
- Dr. VT Ingalthalikar
- Dr. Shekhar Y Bhojraj
- Dr. Arvind Jayaswal
- Dr. S Rajasekaran

The house agreed in principle, however, the clause "organising a meeting" was recommended for deletion. The house agreed that a final draft should be presented and implemented by 2012. There was a suggestion that the "Constitution Committee" should give a report of the revised Constitution by ICS-2011, Chennai. The Constitution Committee includes Dr. V.T. Ingalthalikar as Chairman & the following members – Dr. Atul Goel, Dr. D.K. Taneja, Dr. Arvind Jayaswal & Dr. Raghav Dutt.

Dr. R. Sivakumar & Dr. S. S. Kale completed their term as members of the Executive Committee. The house thanked their active contribution to the Association of Spine



Surgeons of India activities. Dr. Rajesh Parasnis & Dr. K Venkatesh were proposed and seconded for the two positions. Dr. G.D. Sundararaj had completed his tenure as Vice-President. The entire house thanked Dr. Sundararaj for his contribution. Dr. Sajan Hegde & Dr. N. Rajagoplan expressed their interest in the post. Dr. Rajagoplan withdrew in favour of Dr. Hegde. Dr. S. Rajasekaran who completed his term as President thanked the house and invited Dr. G.D. Sundararaj to take over the position. Dr. Sundararaj declined the offer and proposed Dr. S. Rajasekaran continues for a second term. The house seconded the same. Dr. Atul Goel, eminent neurosurgeon was co-opted. Dr. Appaji Krishnan was co-opted for the ICS-2011. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was co-opted for ASSICON-2012. Dr. Saheel Maajid was co-opted for ICS-2012. Dr. Suresh Pillai was co-opted for ASSICON-2013. Dr. Ajoy Prasad Shetty was co-opted for the website and additional activities proposed by the President.

**The New Executive Committee for 2011-12 is as follows:**

**President:**

S. Rajasekaran (2011-13)  
sr@gangahospital.com

**Vice- President:**

Sajan Hegde (2011-13)  
drsajanhegde@yahoo.co.in

**Secretary & Treasurer:**

Ram Chaddha (2010-13)  
spineram@yahoo.com

**Joint Secretary:**

H. S. Chhabra (2010-13)  
drhschhabra@isiconline.org

**Members:**

Abhay Nene (2009-12)  
abhaynene@yahoo.com

Karthik Kailash (2009-12)  
kkspinedoc@gmail.com

Saumyajit Basu (2010-13)  
saumyajitbasu@hotmail.com

Amol Rege (2010-13)  
regeamol@hotmail.com

Rajesh Parasnis (2011-14)  
rajeshparasnis@rediffmail.com

K. Venkatesh (2011-14)  
venkateshortho1@cmcvellore.ac.in

**Co-opted members:**

Atul Goel (atulgoel62@hotmail.com)  
Ajoy Prasad Shetty (ajoyshetty@gmail.com)  
Appaji Krishnan (appaji\_krishnan@yahoo.com)  
Rajendra Prasad (neurosurgery@rediffmail.com)  
Saheel Maajid (saheelmaajid@gmail.com)  
Suresh Pillai (sureshorth@gmail.com)

**11. ICS-2012 - Proposal of Dates, Venue & Theme (supporting letter of local Spine body):**

Dr. Saheel Maajid confirmed "Srinagar" as the venue and promised to convey more details by ICS-2011, Chennai.

**12. ASSICON-2013 - Proposal for Dates & Venue (supporting letter of local Spine body):**

Dr. Suresh Pillai and team confirmed Kochi as the venue for ASSICON-2013 and promised more details in due course.

**13. Any other matter with the permission of the chair:**

The house had a discussion regarding the inappropriate behaviour of "Depuy Spine" at ICS-2010, Mysore and suggested that suitable follow-up should be done by Dr. S. Rajasekaran & Dr. Ram Chaddha with inputs from Dr. N. Rajagopalan – Organizing Secretary – ICS – 2010 – Mysore.

The proposal of a "Minimally Invasive Spine Course" being conducted by Dr. Mohinder Kaushal getting the "A.S.S.I." to be a joint organizer or "under aegis of A.S.S.I." was discussed. The house felt events could be publicised in the A.S.S.I. newsletter, but giving the A.S.S.I. name to it may not be apt for the present.

The Neurosurgery Journal published and edited by Dr. Atul Goel could be affiliated to the A.S.S.I. and a discussion on the same could be had in the future.

A huge discussion on the pros/cons of "Stem Cell Therapy" in India reached no final consensus. An A.S.S.I. statement on the same needed to come out. As of today, the editor of the Indian Journal of Orthopaedics – Dr. Anil Jain was requested to also take up the issue with the IJO and IOA and come out with perhaps an editorial on the same.

The A.S.S.I. anthem presented by Dr. V.T. Ingallhalikar et al was accepted as the official anthem of the A.S.S.I.

Dr. N. Rajagopalan handed over a cheque of Indian Rupees 1.5 lakh as contribution from the organizing

committee of ICS – 2010, Mysore to the A.S.S.I.

Dr. Sajal Mitra handed over an additional Indian Rupees 1 lakh as contribution from the organizing committee of ASSICON – 2010, Nagpur to the A.S.S.I.

Dr. Satish Chandra Gore suggested that Special Interest Groups (SIG) need to be formed for sub-specialty groups in Spine.

Dr. Amish Sanghvi suggested that the A.S.S.I. should start a journal for its members.

Dr. S. Rajasekaran applauded the efforts of the entire Mumbai Team in organizing this mega event ASSICON-2011. The house thanked Dr. S Rajasekaran for being in the chair.

The AGBM was called to a close by the President Dr. S. Rajasekaran.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and all members.

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## A.S.S.I. Supplement of European Spine Journal

By Association of Spine Surgeons of India

*Sponsored by Synthes*

We have had discussions and correspondence with the Editors of European Spine Journal and there is an agreement that a separate supplement of European Spine Journal on the work performed by the members of A.S.S.I. This supplement will most probably be published in January / February, 2012. We should get this ready before ASSICON 2012.

Articles are invited from members of A.S.S.I.

- 1) The articles submitted should reflect original work of the authors.
- 2) Exact replica or reprints of previously published articles are not acceptable.

3) Authors who have considerable work on any topic and who have many published papers on the same topic are invited to present a consolidated paper of their work.

4) Case reports and small case series are not accepted.

5) Review articles of important topics relevant to spine surgery in India are also welcome. All articles submitted will undergo peer review process by the Editors of JBJS. Hence the articles submitted must be in the format for publication in ESJ. Instructions to Authors are available in the ESJ website.

6) The last date for submission of articles is 15th December 2011.

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## Indian Spine Registry

By Association of Spine Surgeons of India

*Sponsored by Synthes*

The long standing dream of A.S.S.I. to have an Indian Spine Registry has now come true. We are planning to have a spine registry which will document all spine surgeries and interventions performed in 20 centres spread across the country and then gradually progress to involve more institutions in the years to come. This has been made possible by the generous grant by Synthes to the tune of USD 1,00,000 spread over five years. I take this opportunity to thank Ms Judy Mitchell, Asia Pacific Head of Synthes for this grant.

Institutions who are willing to participate in spine registry are requested to kindly write to the President, Dr. Rajasekaran at sr@gangahospital.com with a copy marked to the Secretary Dr. Ram Chaddha at spineram@yahoo.com. On hearing from you, we will get back to you with more details.

The data entry will be web-based and we will need contact persons in all participating institutions who will be responsible for upgrading the data on a daily basis. We look forward to hearing from you on this.

# Minutes of the “Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting” of the “Association of Spine Surgeons of India” held on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at 17.30 hrs at the Radisson Blu, Temple Bay, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

An Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India was held on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at 17.30 hrs at the Radisson Blu, Temple Bay, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu during ICS – 2011. The meeting was attended by ASSI members as per register.

The following matters were discussed as per agenda:

- 1. Accounts & Income tax Status:** Dr. H.S. Chhabra, Jt. Secretary informed the house that the accounts were being audited and would be submitted in time. The house delegated him the duty to do so.
- 2. A.S.S.I. subspecialty meeting at IOACON-2011, Ghaziabad, December – 2011:** Dr. Ram Chaddha informed the house that Dr. Anil Jain, senior member of the A.S.S.I. and Organizer of IOACON-2011 had expressed his desire to have an interactive session on “Spine Trauma”, similar to the one conducted by Dr. Gautam Zaveri at ASSICON-2011, Mumbai. The house consented to Dr. Zaveri convening a similar session at IOACON. All members desirous of contributing could contact Dr. Gautam Zaveri.
- 3. ASSICON-2012 – New Delhi:** Dr. H. S. Chhabra invited all members to attend the ASSICON-2011 from February 23-26, 2012 at “Le Meridien”, Janpath, New Delhi. The entire team from Delhi promised an extravaganza of academics with confirmed participation from many international Spine Societies.
- 4. ICS-2012 – Srinagar:** Dr. Saheel Maajid & team from Srinagar invited the house for ICS-2012 at Srinagar. They informed about the convenient modes of transport and connectivity from all major airports. The final details of dates and venue would be conveyed by ASSICON-2012.
- 5. ASSICON-2013 – Kochi:** The team from Kochi invited all members for ASSICON-2013 to Kochi. A formal presentation of the format would be made at

ASSICON-2012.

## **6. Any other matter with the permission of the chair:**

- Dr. S. Rajasekaran informed the house that an A.S.S.I. - registry for all spine cases was being planned with a generous grant from SYNTHES. The details would be planned and conveyed to all members.
- Dr. S. Rajasekaran also informed the house that a new A.S.S.I. website was ready and would be functional soon.
- Dr. Ram Chaddha thanked Dr. Sajan Hegde and Dr. Appaji Krishnan for a well arranged ICS-2011. The house applauded the effort.
- Dr. Ram Chaddha handed over a cheque of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Indian Rupees Five Lakh) as contribution to the A.S.S.I. from the organizing team of ASSICON-2011, Mumbai.

The meeting was called to a close after thanking Dr. S. Rajasekaran for being in the chair.



# A.S.S.I. Awards & Fellowships for 2012

(Application protocols)

## **A.S.S.I. - CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD – 2012**

The A.S.S.I. encourages clinical research projects undertaken by its members.

Three copies of the complete report of a research project finished in 2011, including the treatise, yet unpublished, is to be submitted for the award by Saturday, December 31, 2011 to the Secretariat.

The A.S.S.I. – Clinical Research Award is a certificate of honour and Indian Rupees 50,000/- (Fifty thousand) which will be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2012 at New Delhi.

The judges would be three senior A.S.S.I. members.

## **A.S.S.I. – BASIC SCIENCES AWARD – 2012**

The A.S.S.I. encourages research on “Basic Sciences” undertaken by its members.

Three copies of the complete report of the project finished in 2011, including the treatise, yet unpublished, is to be submitted for the award by Saturday, December 31, 2011 to the Secretariat.

The A.S.S.I. – Basic Sciences Award is a certificate of honour and Indian Rupees 50,000/- (Fifty thousand) which will be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2012 at New Delhi.

The judges would be three senior A.S.S.I. members.

## **A.S.S.I. – YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD – 2012**

The A.S.S.I. encourages research projects undertaken by its young members less than 35 years of age.

Three copies of the complete report of a research project finished in 2011, including the treatise, yet unpublished, is to be submitted for the award by Saturday, December 31, 2011 to the Secretariat.

The A.S.S.I. – Young Investigators Award is a certificate of honour and Indian Rupees 25,000/- (Twenty-five thousand) which will be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2012 at New Delhi.

The judges would be three senior A.S.S.I. members.

## **A.S.S.I. PUBLICATION AWARD – 2012**

The A.S.S.I. acknowledges & recognizes the member who has made the most substantial contribution to published literature in the year 2011.

The award includes a certificate and an award of Indian Rupees 12,500/- (Twelve thousand five hundred) to be presented at the inaugural function of ASSICON – 2012 at New Delhi.

The applicant has to send three copies of all his published material to the Secretariat by Saturday, December 31, 2011.

The A.S.S.I. Publication award is judged by a three member committee namely - President, Vice President and Secretary (or any other senior member like a Past President of the A.S.S.I., if applicant for the award is also one of the above office-bearers)

### **The following point scale is used:**

#### **International Journals**

- First author of invited review articles/  
full original papers 10
- First author of case report 7
- Co-author 4

#### **Indian Journals**

- First author of invited review articles/full papers 7
- Co-authors of any of above 3

The applicant who gets the maximum amount of marks for publications published in 2011 gets the award. If there is a close call, the award may be shared to recognize and encourage members.

## **A.S.S.I. – TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP FOR 2012**

The A.S.S.I. awards two travelling fellowships from amongst the A.S.S.I. members. The duration of the fellowship is three weeks and will begin with the ICS – 2012 attendance at Srinagar and then visiting two / three spine surgery centres in different parts of India. The registration fee and local hospitality for ICS – 2012 for the selected fellows will be borne by the local organizers of ICS - 2012. Each A.S.S.I. travelling fellow will receive actual payments for travel (by 2nd AC / Air whichever is cheaper) and stay (arranged by local organizers) on receipt of a written report of the fellowship from the selected fellow.

The travel to the ICS – 2012 meeting and thereafter to the two/ three centres in India and back home as well as local subsistence including stay and travel will have to be arranged by the selected fellows in co-ordination with local organisers. The local organizers will surely offer organizational support. The applicant has to be a life member of the A.S.S.I. and should send three copies of his/her curriculum vitae with an application stating what the expectation from this fellowship is.

The application should reach the Secretariat by Saturday, December 31, 2011. The selected candidates would be informed by January 31, 2012.

## **A.S.S.I. – DARTMOUTH SPINE FELLOWSHIP – 2012:**

The A.S.S.I. announces its annual fellowship in spine surgery in collaboration with the Dartmouth Medical School, New Hampshire, USA. The selected fellow will work in the spine surgery unit of the Department of Orthopaedics of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in May – June 2012 for a period of 4-6 weeks.

Though the fellowship will have no stipend, the selected fellow will receive travel and stay allowance from the Dartmouth – Hitchcock Medical Center. Applications are invited from interested A.S.S.I. life members.

Please submit your applications to the Secretariat by Saturday, December 31, 2011.

Requirements:

1. A.S.S.I. life member
2. Age less than 45 years at the time of application

3. Applicant must have a US visa valid for at least a year from date of travel

Applicant must indicate:

- Current professional position
- Current work profile including percentage of spine work in practice
- Special spine interests
- Contribution to A.S.S.I. as regards conferences attended, papers/posters presented, meetings organized etc
- Contribution to academics as regards international/ national/ regional papers/ publications/ podium presentations etc
- Specific expectations from the Dartmouth fellowship (in 50 words)

The applicants would be assessed based on the following criteria:

### **DARTMOUTH FELLOWSHIP POINT SYSTEM**

(A) A.S.S.I. related achievements:

1. Research award / publication award: 6 pts
2. Best paper award: 5 pts
3. Traveling fellowship: 4 pts
4. Organized ASSICON/ ICS (org sec or org chairman only) - 4 pts
5. Paper read at best paper session: 2 pts
6. Paper read: 1 pt
7. Poster: half pt
8. Each ASSICON/ICS attended: 1 pt

(B) Publications:

1. International (A grade): 3 pts
2. International (B grade): 2 pts
3. Indian A grade: 1 pt

(C) Presentations: (only spine topics)

1. International podium: 2 pts
2. National podium: 1 pt
3. Posters: half pt

(D) Age:- 35-40yrs : 1 pt

(E) Extras:

1. International recognitions/awards (spine related): 3 pts
2. Other national spine awards (non A.S.S.I.): 2 pts

# Report of A.S.S.I. Travelling Fellowship for 2011

Landed in Mumbai on a rainy Wednesday night. The fellowship started on Thursday (28 July, 2011) with PD Hinduja Hospital where I was welcomed by Dr. Abhay Nene and team. Three cases, two each of microdiscectomy and one canal stenosis were posted in the OT, also got opportunity to scrub in one of the case. Case discussion on scoliosis and journal club followed the same evening. Friday was appointment with Dr. S.K. Srivastava at K.E.M. Hospital. He was operating on potts paraplegia dorsal spine where he decompressed the dorsal spine anteriorly and simultaneous posterior instrumentation (Hartshill) through same incision "Versatile approach". On Saturday, I visited Dr. Vikas Gupte at Fortis Hospital where he was operating on two level lumbar canal stenosis. He showed me over the top decompression using micrendoscopic technique. This was followed by Spine Club meet at Hinduja Hospital, where the fellow spine surgeons presented few cases & had healthy interactive session with Dr. Nene, Dr. Gupte & Dr. Ram Chaddha. Sunday went around exploring Mumbai. Monday, got a chance to visit Reliance Hospital where Dr. Mihir Bapat did a back and front tumor excision, reconstruction and stabilization for ? GCT/? ABC involving L2 vertebra. Dr. Nene had an exhaustive operative list on Tuesday with seven cases lined up. Got a chance to see dynamic stabilization using Dynesis for degenerative lumbar spine, ACDF using Zero P, growing rod, open TLIF and so on. Wednesday, my last day in Mumbai, was spent in the operation theatre with Dr. Samir Dalvie where he did ACDF using stand-alone cage, laminectomy for lumbar canal stenosis and posterior decompression for Potts paraplegia. The various aspects of surgical management were discussed at length. Also spent some time in the out-patient clinic at Hinduja Hospita. The week at Mumbai ended on a high note with dinner at Wellington Club, organized by Dr. Nene. Bid good bye to Mumbai. Thursday morning was my flight to Coimbatore.

I reached Coimbatore in late afternoon which was followed by an informal meeting with Dr. Rajasekaran & Dr. A. P. Shetty in the evening. Friday began at 07.30 am in the O.T. where gamut of cases were lined up, indications operative plans and technical tips & pearls were part of the discussion. Dinner at Coimbatore Club was hosted by Dr. Rajasekaran on Friday night after a long spell in the theatre. Saturday

began with teaching and thesis presentation by fellows at Ganga Hospital, which was followed by sessions in operating room. Got hands-on experience of working under the microscope in the Lab facility/workshop.

Sunday was week-off, went around the city. Monday, the day began in the O.T where again a long operative list was waiting for us. The various procedures demonstrated during our stay were microdiscectomy, spinous process splitting decompression for lumbar canal stenosis, multi-level laminectomy for cervical myelopathy, ACDF, spondylolisthesis reduction and instrumented fusion, percutaneous fixation for fracture thoracolumbar spine, kyphosis correction etc.

Tuesday was ward rounds and also got to see the follow-up of some of the operated cases. Also witnessed the management/ care in the out-patient department. Dr. Dheenadhayalan (Consultant, Ganga Hospital) invited us to his house for dinner later in the night.

The last day of our stay, Wednesday (10 August, 2011) was utilized in the operating room which involved not only learning some new techniques but also actively involved by assisting in cases. Thursday, we packed our bags to attend Instructional Course Spine 2011 at Mahabalipuram. The course was very comprehensive and least not to mention the exciting venue of the conference. Finally, flew back home on Sunday 14 August, 2011.

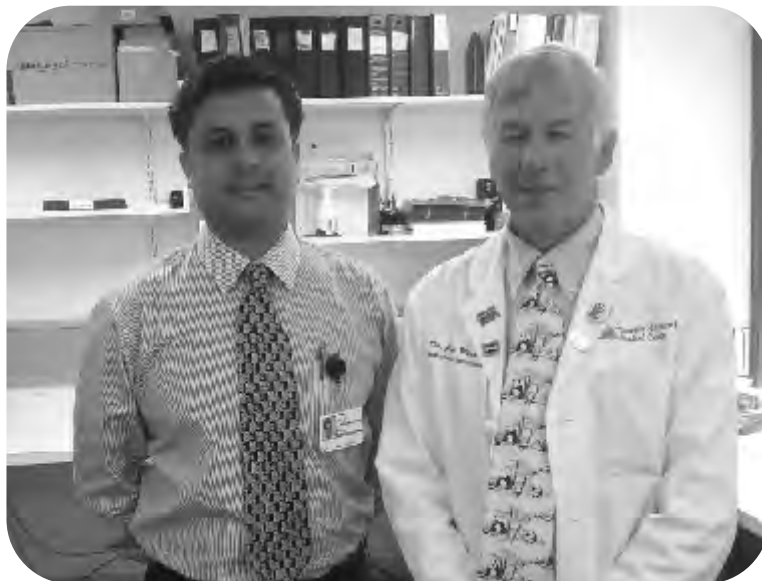
A.S.S.I. travelling fellowship is an excellent opportunity for young spine surgeons to travel across India and see quality work happening in our country and enrich our knowledge.

Finally, we would like to thank and express our gratitude towards Dr. Ram Chaddha, Dr. Abhay Nene and all the surgeons in Mumbai and Dr. S. Rajasekaran and Dr. Ajoy Shetty from Ganga Hospital who gave us deeper/varied insight in the field of spine surgery. Last but not the least, our heart-felt thanks to Dr. Sajan Hegde and Dr. Appaji for their hospitality and putting up together with such a remarkable show at ICS 2011.

**Dr. Rajeev Naik (Bangalore)**

**Dr. Pankaj Kandwal (New Delhi)**

# Report of A.S.S.I.-Dartmouth Spine Fellowship for 2011



Dr. James Weinstein, Editor of Spine Journal

I present the report of my activities during A.S.S.I. - Dartmouth fellowship in the USA from 5th June to 1st July, 2011. I had the privilege of 'shadowing' Dr. Dilip K Sengupta at the Spine Center, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire during this visit.

## **General Orientation:**

My first day was spent in the General Orientation with other new employees and visitors to the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. We were instructed on hospital policies like Compliance, Patient privacy, Safety at the work place etc.

The week days were designated to Outpatient service on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Operating days were on Wednesday and Thursday. The afternoon half of Tuesday and Friday were spent in Research work.

On a typical day, work would begin at 6:15 am at the Orthopaedic conference room where the Residents would present the previous nights Trauma cases and Emergency surgery.

After this, we would begin the days schedule in the Outpatient service or Operating rooms.

## **Outpatient Clinic:**

I had the opportunity to observe the interview of Outpatients. I was impressed by the amount of time Dr.

Sengupta devoted to talking to the patients and their relatives, explaining in great detail their condition and treatment options available.

## **Operations attended:**

I witnessed a variety of surgeries including Anterior cervical disectomy and fusion, Anterior cervical corpectomy and fusion, Lumbar disectomy Transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion, Posterior lumbar interbody fusion, Posterior stabilization for Thoraco lumbar fracture. I was able to scrub and observe these procedures closely.

Surgical 'time-out' was diligently practiced for every case.

## **Grand Rounds:**

This was a weekly event when one visiting surgeon presented their experiences on a variety of topics mentioned below:

**June 8:** Dr. Kantor presented on the 'controversies with ASR of the hip and prosthesis recall'

**June 15:** The establishment of a Sports Medicine program in the community

**June 22:** Dr. Steve Goodman - From bedside to bench to bedside

**June 29:** I presented my talk entitled 'The use of Titanium

mesh cages in anterior column reconstruction in active spinal infections’.

**Research work:**

I did the preliminary study planning, review of literature, master chart preparation and cohort collection for patients who underwent Single, Two and Three level Anterior cervical disectomy and fusion. I also studied the use of cadaveric fibular allograft in these patients.

**Bioskills Lab:**

Dr. Kevin Dwyer was kind enough to take me for a tour and explain the running of their bioskills lab.

**Visits:**

I had the opportunity to visit the Head Quarters of Globus and DePuy Spine. I visited various units including R&D, Quality control and the Rapid prototyping Unit. I also had an opportunity to do an Anterior Cervical Disectomy and plating on a frozen cadaver.

**Spine Journal Office:**

The Spine journal office is a ‘stones throw’ from the hospital. I was fortunate to be able to meet and spend time with Dr. James Weinstien and staff of the Editorial Board. Ms.

Michaela Powell, Assistant Managing Editor, was kind enough to explain the functions of the Editorial process of Spine.

**Recreation:**

Dr. Sengupta is well known for his generous hospitality and I experienced that first hand.

I had my first experience at Kayaking down the Connecticut river in addition to some memorable bike rides along the trails of New Hampshire. He also took time to show me the beautiful Dartmouth College campus. I had a very comfortable stay in his house.

I am very grateful to the Association of Spine Surgeons of India for giving me this wonderful opportunity and I would be glad to provide any assistance to the recipient of the A.S.S.I. - Dartmouth Fellowship 2012!

**Dr. Rohit Amritanand**

*Associate Professor, Dept. of Orthopaedics  
Christian Medical College  
Vellore – 632 004  
Tamil Nadu*

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## ASSICON 2011 – Mumbai – Report

When Dr. Ingalthalikar sang the A.S.S.I. anthem in the closing moments of ASSICON 2011, we knew it was not the end...rather it was only a beginning of a new era for the A.S.S.I.! It was a redefining moment for the A.S.S.I., as ASSICON 2011, Mumbai, raised a toast for the silver jubilee of the association. And there could not have been a better way to get to the milestone, than with a meeting as successful as this one! ASSICON 2011 stood taller than the hype around



it, met every expectation it had raised, and turned out to be a landmark event in the history of our association...a fitting tribute to the 25 years of perseverance and excellence of the A.S.S.I.

Hosted by the Bombay Spine Club, under the able stewardship of Dr. Ram Chaddha, ASSICON 2011 was held at a plush south Mumbai venue – the Trident Hotel - along the most scenic marine drive of Mumbai city.

Attended by record 500 delegates the







meeting included some of the biggest international names in the field of spine surgery. Drs. Kuniyoshi Abumi, Alex Vaccaro, Gordon Findlay, Hee Kit Wong, Luiz Vialle, John Heller, and Scott Boden were amongst the presidents of the leading international spine associations that attended the meeting. But as always, it was the faculty members of the A.S.S.I. that really was the foundation of the scientific excellence ASSICON Mumbai achieved!

With four halls running to full houses, the 4 days between January 27th to 31st was an academic treat to every delegates, as evidenced by the flood of appreciative mails the organizing committee received after the event. The cleverly designed scientific program had something for everyone, from the high volume specialist to the basic orthopedic surgeon interested in learning contemporary principles and newer techniques.

Everything from 'Medicolegal aspects of spine surgery' to 'Complex spinal deformity' was covered in these 4 days,

and yet the program had enough time for fellowship in a relaxed setting!

The highlight of the non-academic program clearly was the felicitation of past presidents of the A.S.S.I. by the Bombay Spine Club at the venue of the first ever ASSICON meeting – the Taj Mahal Hotel. This formal sit down dinner event turned out to be a 'Life time achievement award' function graced by the glitterati in our field! The short speeches by these giants gave an insight into how spine surgery in India developed through the last 25 years!

Another 'first' at the Silver Jubilee ASSICON was the formation of the NRI Spine Forum (named the S.S.I.A. - Spine Surgeons of Indian Origin Association), where some of the best Indian spine surgeon working overseas got together and formed a united front to give a unique angle to the growing Indian spine community. Their participation and contribution clearly will go a long way in the future.

# The Royal College of Surgeons of England Hunterian Professorships



Mr. John Getty, Chairperson of the Royal College of Surgeons of England handing over the 'Hunterian Oration Medal' to Dr. S. Rajasekaran.

The Royal College of Surgeons of England bestows 'Hunterian Professorship' annually, which are considered as high honours and the award is jealously guarded by the Council which carefully considers and approves the proposal by a special high level sub-committee. The Hunterian Professorship is considered to be one of the proudest traditional honours of the college bestowed to surgeons of eminence who have richly contributed to the field of surgery by original research or innovations. The honour of delivering the Hunterian lecture is regarded by surgeons around the world as a great privilege and high accolade awarded to recognise their work.

## **History:**

Sir John Hunter is the founder of "Scientific surgery" and his experimental approach ('true learning is only possible against background of research') to the study of physiology and surgery resulted in a new scientific attitude to surgery. Despite his busy practice and heavy teaching commitments, he spent many hours daily in research both clinically and in his museum specimens.

He was greatly respected and widely honoured with many honours like Fellow of the Royal Society (1767); Surgeon Extraordinary to the King (1776); Member of the Royal Society of Gothenberg (1781); Member of the Royal Society of Medicine and Royal Academy of Surgery of Paris

(1783); Member of the American Philosophical Society (1787) and Surgeon-General to the Army (1790).

John Hunter died in 1793, in honour of whom the Royal College of Surgeons of England instituted the Hunterian Professorship which are being delivered annually since 1810. The list of Hunterian Professors since the time reads like a veritable catalogue of history of surgery and includes names like Abernethy, Brodie, Hutchinson and Moynihan. The Hunterian Professors have been traditionally great contributors to the progress of science, for example Dr. Alexander Flemming found penicillin and delivered his Hunterian Oration in 1919. This work was later awarded the Nobel Prize.

The Hunterian Professorships are on rare occasions bestowed to international surgeons. Dr. S. Rajasekaran is the second orthopaedic surgeon in India who has been elected to this honour. The only other person from India who has delivered the Hunterian lecture in Orthopaedics is Prof. B. Mukhopadhaya in 1956. It is a matter of pride that this honour has come to India after a gap of 55 years.

## **Dr. S. Rajasekaran's Research**

Dr. S. Rajasekaran has been invited to deliver the Hunterian lecture on "Biomechanical Analysis of the Evolution of Buckling Collapse of Pediatric Spine and its Clinical Implications". This work has been performed over a period

of 15 years and it is a classical example of successful “bench to bed-side research”. The research involved identifying the clinical sequence of events of massive spinal deformities. More than 2 million children around the world suffer from this problem annually and this can lead to late onset paralysis of limbs and early death due to cardio-respiratory compromise. Dr. Rajasekaran’s research involved methods of early identification of children who are at risk for such problems. The second stage of research involved studying the biomechanical forces across the growth plate of vertebra by the creation of a Finite Element Model of pediatric spine. These studies proved that the growth of the spine was controlled by “chondral growth response curve” and not by

‘Heuter Voltman’s Law’ as traditionally believed. This finding allows exciting possibilities of new methods of treatment of spinal deformities based on the principles of growth modulation. The above research has been widely recognized by numerous other awards such as Tamilnadu Government Scientist Award (in 2000), the Silver Jubilee Award of the Medical Council of India (2002), the Sofamer Danek Award of ISSLS, Canada (2002) and the Macnab LaRocca Award of ISSLS (2005).

In recognition of his clinical and research excellence, the Royal College of Surgeons of England also awarded the “Honorary Fellow” to Dr. Rajasekaran last year.

## Guidelines for A.S.S.I. Spine Fellowship Training Centres & Eligibility of Fellows

The Association of Spine Surgeons of India invites Institutions / Surgeon / Surgeon Groups to apply for recognition as “Spine Fellowship Training Centre” as per the following criteria.

### A.S.S.I. approved Spine Fellowship Training Centre

Name of Chief Mentor assuming overall responsibility of training:

1. Single surgeon / unit / group doing pure spine work:
2. Institute Specifications:
  - a. Beds
  - b. Multi-specialty / limited specialty / Single Specialty
  - c. Any extra spine specific utilities (CT, MR, neurophysiology, Computer navigation etc)
3. Gamut of work: (Pl enclose list of surgeries performed in the last 3 years)
  - a. Number of cases per year: minimum 250/year
  - b. Spectrum of cases: (% of total)
    - i. Area
      1. Cervical spine
      2. Thoracic spine
      3. Lumbar spine
    - ii. Pathology
      1. Degenerative, fracture
      2. Deformity
      3. Tumour

- c. Non surgical procedures performed: Injections, Vertebroplasty etc
4. Research work done in the unit so far
5. Publications by unit so far (yearly break up)
6. Do you have possibilities of lodging the fellow?
7. Can you organize funding for the fellowship through your own resources?
8. Any other comments:

Applications are also invited from prospective fellows based on the following:

### Eligibility Criteria for Fellows:

1. Must be three years post MS Orth or MCh Neurosurgery
2. Must have demonstrated adequate interest in spine surgery by attending at least two spine meetings of significance in the past three years
3. Adequate presentations and publications marks or points could be awarded by the selection committee for the various things
4. Membership of the A.S.S.I. for at least two years prior to becoming a fellow.

All applications must reach the A.S.S.I. Secretariat by **December 31, 2011** for the fellowships for the year 2012.

The communication can be sent to:

### ASSI Secretariat:

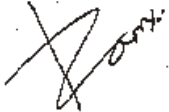
C/o VAMA EVENTS, Office 4, Gr. Floor, Anmol C.H.S., Sakharam Keer Road, Shivaji Park, Mumbai 400 016.  
Tel.: +91.22. 2438 3498 Telefax: +91.22.2438 3499

# Notice of Annual General Body Meeting of the A.S.S.I.

The Annual General Body Meeting (A.G.B.M.) of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 17.00 hrs at "Le Meridien", New Delhi, India.** All members of the A.S.S.I. are requested to attend.

The following matters are on the agenda:

1. Condolences
2. Passing the minutes of A.G.B.M. – Mumbai and E.G.B.M. - Mahabalipuram
3. Secretarial Report: Dr. Ram Chaddha
4. Accounts & Income Tax Status: Dr. H. S. Chhabra
5. ICS - 2012 – Srinagar: Dates, Venue, Theme: Dr. Saheel Majid, Dr. Suhail Afzal
6. ASSICON – 2013 – Kochi: Dates, Venue: Dr. Suresh Pillai
7. A.S.S.I. Orator – 2013
8. Ratification of New Members
9. Election of Office Bearers
10. ICS – 2013: Proposal for Dates, Venue & Theme (Supporting letter of local Spine body)
11. ASSICON – 2014: Proposal for Dates & Venue (Supporting letter of local Spine body)
12. Any other matter with the permission of the chair



**Dr. Ram Chaddha**

*Secretary & Treasurer, A.S.S.I.*

*November 1, 2011*



## **ASSOCIATION OF SPINE SURGEONS OF INDIA**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 2011-2012**

- President** : S. Rajasekaran  
sr@gangahospital.com
- Vice-President** : Sajan Hegde  
drsajanhegde@yahoo.co.in
- Secretary & Treasurer** : Ram Chaddha  
spineram@yahoo.com
- Jt. Secretary** : H. S. Chhabra  
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- Members** : Abhay Nene  
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- Suresh Pillai  
sureshorth@gmail.com

*Kindly send your suggestions and feedback to: **Dr. Ram Chaddha**, Secretary & Treasurer, A.S.S.I.*

# [www.assi.in](http://www.assi.in)

A.S.S.I. Secretariat:



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