

## Newsletter 2017

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Colleague,

It is more than 6 months since we all met in Hyderabad, where I took over as President of ASSI.

I am pleased to inform you that the Presidential initiatives announced by me are progressing extremely well. We have completely revamped the ASSI Website. The Home page is very attractive and the content crisp, neat and the site user friendly. Shortly the Home page will be theme based and will be made even more attractive.

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The first Spine Outreach Programs at Guwahati was a success and the second one will be held shortly in Pune. A total of 8 such programs, with best of ASSI faculty spread over the next two years, in my opinion will immensely help our colleagues practicing in far corners of our country. ASSI monographs, on various spine topics are getting ready and we hope to release 5 of them during ASSICON 2018 in Chennai.

The first volume of Indian Spine Journal (ISJ) will be ready by Jan. 2018. This journal will showcase to the World the quality of research and clinical work carried out by our surgeons. My sincere thanks to Rohit for his fantastic work on the website, Gautam for his relentless pursuit of the ASSI monographs, for Ajay and Samir for looking after the Spine outreach programs, and above all to Prof. Anil Jain for his contribution as Editor in Chief of ISJ.

To Dr. HS Chhabra, Dr. S Basu and Dr. Ajoy Shetty: My special thanks for those innumerable number of hours spent on phone calls, emails and personal discussions.

I look forward to your suggestions and recommendations.

Sincerely

Dr. Raghava Dutt Mulukutla  
PRESIDENT ASSI



### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It was a daunting task for me to take over as Secretary of ASSI at ASSICON, Hyderabad. I had to live up to the standards of Dr Harvinder Singh Chhabra who has left an indelible mark in the history of ASSI by his secretarial activities over the last four years.

The first major activity was reorganizing various committees, co-opting interested members to give the committee a proper shape and relegate responsibilities to each. The basic committee structure remains the same but the allocation of responsibilities has been made and for the first-time committee meetings have been planned and organized in the pre-meeting session of ICS. Each committee has specified agenda and this is how ASSI will move forward and become more professionally organized.

The program committee has been allocated to work on the various programs of ASSI and other meetings with ASSI co-branding. Due to the successful functioning of this committee, various conferences and meetings of ASSI would have relevant and attractive programs so that delegates would enjoy a high quality academic event in each of these meetings.

The education committee would be looking after the fellowship entrance and exit examinations. This time a web based company was hired for the online ASSI entrance exam and nearly 50 candidates took the exams after a mock test was successfully conducted. 15 of the them have been shortlisted for the counselling, which will take place on the sidelines of ICS Kovalam through which allocation of ASSI fellows to the various accredited centers would be done. The exit exam has been planned this year on 16th September 2017 at Park Clinic, Kolkata. Examiners of the exit exams includes Dr Saumyajit Basu, Dr Rohit Amritanand, Dr Shankar Acharya and Dr Vijay Kumar. The education committee is also pondering over a plan to start a short-term fellowship program which is going to be discussed in executive committee meeting.

The research committee is dedicated to various research activities of ASSI. This includes ongoing research projects and recruiting new research concepts for multicentric data analysis. This committee also has been instrumental in formulating various ASSI research proposals and as mentioned earlier, thesis topics has been allocated to ASSI fellows and I am sure each of these would be published in peer reviewed journals with high international acceptance.

The registry committee has been looking after the ASSI Spine Registry and the website has been completely revamped with different search engines incorporated in to the system so that all the uploaded data can be retrieved and analyzed smoothly. Based on this registry data, various thesis topics have been allocated to the ASSI Fellows. Our sincere thanks goes to the all those 10 centers who have been uploading their case details religiously for the last 5 years. It is only due to their efforts that the prospects of multi centric data analysis would see the light of the day.



The website committee has launched a completely new website of ASSI. This website is now more interactive and will soon have online registration system, online payment portal and online directory of all ASSI members. We hope that the within the next ASSICON we are going to realize the fruitfulness of this new website. Lot of efforts has gone in designing this website and we encourage all members to log on to [www.assi.in](http://www.assi.in) to get the best out of it.

The nomination and constitution committee is looking after various constitutional aspects of the ASSI including various legal angles of the same. Amendments which has been proposed and ratified by the GB will soon be incorporated. It is also scrutinizing all the nominations and applications for various ASSI posts which become vacant from time to time. It will also scrutinize applications for various ASSI meetings including ASSICONS and ICSs.

The social committee of ASSI is actively doing various types useful charitable work for societal benefits. The Advocacy committee would look after all the social awareness aspects of ASSI including all press releases and related issues. It will be in continuous touch with governmental and nongovernmental regulatory bodies to make orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons to become equally efficient and legally responsible for various categories of patients with spinal disorders.

The spectrum of work ranges from organizing free surgeries to medical checkup camps to training spine surgeons in various parts of the country. Many poor patients are being supported by this fund and we hope that it spread its wings throughout the length and breadth of this huge country.

In addition to these committees, 4 task forces have been formed.

The first is the task force on ASSI monograms and I am thankful to Dr Gautam Zaveri for his tumultuous efforts to bring out various topic based ASSI monograms. It has been a huge challenge for him to bring all the authors to submit their chapters in a mutually agreed time line. Thieme publishers is going to bring out the ASSI monograms and you will be happy to know that till now we have been on target and we plan to bring out the first few in ASSICON Chennai.

The second task force is on the Indian Spine Journal (ISJ) which is scheduled to come out in January 2018. Dr Anil Jain has kindly consented to be editor in chief and we have already signed an agreement with the publishing house, Wolters Kluwer, for publishing the ISJ. Initially it would be printed twice in a year and once more and more articles are submitted by our members, it will be increased to 4 times in a year. Please submit articles and this is the only way ISJ would become an indexed journal of international repute soon. The first issue has been planned to be a symposium on spinal infections and is scheduled to be released at the inauguration of ASSICON Chennai.

The third taskforce is on the ASSI Outreach Program, supported by Medtronic. Dr Ajay Shetty and, Dr Samir Dalvi are the key persons who are looking after this activity. This one-day event would reach out the various orthopedic and neurosurgeons from the various second tier cities of our country so that the participants can interact on basic topics, like disc prolapse, spinal trauma and tuberculosis.

The fourth task force is the Task Force on Prevention of Spinal Cord Injuries. Headed by Dr H. S. Chhabra, this task force is responsible for spreading societal awareness regarding this issue and would devise ways and means to interact with various governmental and non-governmental Task Force on Prevention of Spinal Cord Injuries-governmental agencies regarding this. The task force is already on the process of organizing a 2-day workshop on this.

It is with your active support, I will tirelessly put in all efforts to enhance the prestige of ASSI. It is with your best wishes I would be able to steer ASSI to excellence. It with your blessings, I will try to live up to your expectations!

Long live ASSI!

Jai Hind!

Dr. Saumyajit Basu  
Secretary- ASSI

#### MINUTES OF GBM

[Assi-Meeting-Minutes-17](#)

#### REPORTS OF VARISOUS COMMITTEES OF ASSI

Report of ASSI Program Committee

Dr Saumyajit Basu (Chair)

Dr. Vijay Kumar

Dr Gautam Zaveri (co-opted)

Dr Appaji Krishnan (co-opted)

Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan (co-opted)

The committee has worked extremely hard throughout the year to make the programs of ASSI fruitful to the participants. We started off with the flagship event, ASSICON, held at Hyderabad in January 2017. The pre-conference program was supported by SRS (Scoliosis Research Society). A World Wide Course (WWC) was organized by SRS as the pre meeting scientific program of ASSICON 2017. A galaxy of stars across the world was present to enlighten the participants for various aspects of surgical complications in spine. The spectrum of complication ranged from pediatric to adult deformity. The main conference was also a fantastic experience. The halls were well attended by interested participants and most of the lectures had a proper take home message.

This is the first time ASSI has organized an outreach program to reach out to the tier-2 cities of the country. The first outreach program was held at Guwahati and basic level topics like Lumbar disc prolapse, Cervical myelopathy and Tuberculosis in spine were discussed. Nearly 50 participants turned up for this meeting and ASSI remains thankful to Medtronic for their whole hearted support.

The ICS in Kovalam has woven together a beautiful program which is basically a case based discussion module. We are thankful to the Korean Spine Society (KSS) for sponsoring 3 faculty for the meeting. I am sure that their thoughtful lectures will provoke a lot of interest in various aspects of spine surgery. Each case discussed would be dissected threadbare, so that current evidence on a particular issue along with the experience of well-known faculty is mixed together to form an efficient strategy for treatment. The organizing secretary of ICS Kovalam, Dr Ranjith Unnikrishnan has liaised with the program committee continuously and finalized a extremely attractive program.

All eyes remain focused for the mega event in 2018 – ASSICON, Chennai. Dr Appaji Krishnan, organizing secretary, is continuously in touch with the program

committee and the abstract submission would open just after the ICS at Kovalam. The abstract submission system would be a web based transparent system in which all abstracts would be submitted -- those who would like to compete for the VTI Gold Medal will have to submit their full papers. Along with this the conference would be enlightened by experts from across the globe, many of whom have already confirmed their participation. The program promises to be a mixture of didactic lectures, interactive case discussions, video sessions, panel discussions and debates which will leave you spell bound.

So friends and colleagues, please block your dates for ASSICON2018, Chennai!!

#### Report of ASSI Education Committee

Dr. Raghav Dutt / Dr. Samir Dalvie  
(Chair)

Dr Gururaj Sangondimath  
Dr Samir Dalvie (co-opted)  
Dr Vishal Kundhani (co-opted)  
Dr Ketan Khujrekar (co-opted)

The Education Committee has successfully conducted the ASSI Fellowship Entrance examination about a month ago. ASSI hired the services of Splashgain Technologies, a professional company with experience in conducting various online examinations in the IT sector. All the members submitted 25 MCQs and a question bank of 250 questions was formed and it was handed over to Splashgain Technologies and a computer randomization was done – the final paper had 100 questions in 90 minutes and a mock test was conducted a week prior to the examination. Nearly 50 examinees wrote the examination and the results have been displayed on the ASSI website.

The exit examination of the ASSI fellows, currently undergoing training at various ASSI accredited centers will be held at Park Clinic, Kolkata on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and 4 examiners have already been selected with 3 orthopedic spine surgeons and 1 neurosurgeon as is the norm for FNB examination. All of them have experience as examiners in FNB and hence were thought suitable for the purpose. Travel arrangements for them has already been completed.

#### Report of ASSI Research Committee

Dr. HS Chhabra (Chair)  
Dr J. Nareshbabu  
Dr Bhavuk Garg (co-opted)  
Dr Arvind Kulkarni (co-opted)  
Dr Tarun Suri (co-opted)

1. AOSAP Regional Research project: Effectiveness of various diagnostic and management tools for the treatment/management of people with Potts spine in India and its neighboring countries- A prospective observational Multicentric cohort study. Total 13 participating centers were proposed. However Dr. Bhavuk Garg from AIIMS, Delhi not got ethics Committee approval. So at present 12 centers are participating in the project.

A revised proforma has been circulated among all participating centers. The same has already been uploaded into the online portal. A new Potts spine server link has been created and the user details sent to all centers for further data upload.

At present there is data from 237 patients. The quality of the data still needs to be improved further.

2. Submission of proposal titled "Lumbar disc prolapse: A multicentric, multinational prospective cohort outcomes trial" to AOSAP for consideration for multicentric study.

Symptomatic lumbar disc prolapse is one of the most common cause for back pain and lower limb radiculopathy globally. There is adequate literature evidence that most of the patients with lumbar disc prolapse respond to conservative therapy and very few require surgical management. However there is insufficient data regarding the most efficacious protocol of conservative treatment and percentage of patients improving with conservative management. It is well established that if a patient doesn't respond to a conservative trial, surgical management is indicated. However the duration for which the conservative treatment is to be given is also not well defined.

Hence we plan to conduct a prospective cohort study to compare the demographics, analyse what constitutes the most appropriate conservative protocol and outcomes of conservative and surgical management along with cost effective analysis.

3. Allocation of research topics to ASSI fellows at different centres as their projects:  
A committee reviewed the data available in the spine registry which could be reviewed and analyzed by ASSI fellows as part of their thesis project. The various topics allocated to the fellows are as under:

S. No.	Name	Host Center	Mentors	Thesis Topics	Data Source
1.	Dr. Abhinandan Reddy .M	Indian Spinal Injuries Center	1. Dr. H.S Chhabra 2. Dr. Bharat Dave	Osteoporotic thoracolumbar fractures with neurological deficit- Demographics, Clinical presentation, modality of management and their outcome.	1. ISIC 2. Stavva
2.	Dr. Anil Solanki	Park Clinic	1. Dr. Saumyajit Basu 2. Dr Ajoy Shetty	Scoliosis in Neurofibromatosis: Demographics and surgical outcome.	1. Park Clinic 2. Ganga Hospital

3.	Dr. Jimmy Chokshy	BJM	1. Dr. J.V. Modi 2. Dr. Bharat Dave	Pseudoarthrosis in Ankylosing Spondylitis.	1. BJM data 2. Stavva data
4.	Dr. Ankit Patel	Bombay Hospital	1. Dr. Arvind Kulkarni, Dr. Vishal Kundnani 2. Dr. Naresh Babu	Tandem Stenosis: Clinical presentation, management option and their outcome.	1. Bombay Hospital data 2. Mallika Hospital
5.	Dr. Subramaniyam MH	Apollo Hospitals, Chennai	1. Dr. Sajan Hegde 2. Dr. Rajasekaran	High grade spondylolisthesis -reduction outcome of surgical procedure with or without reduction.	1. Dr. Sajan Hegde data 2. Ganga Hospital data
6.	Dr. Sidharth S Shah	PD Hinduja National Hospital	1. Dr. Samir Dalvie 2. Dr. Shankar Acharya	TLLF in lumbar caries spine: clinico-radiological outcome, safety and efficacy.	1. PD Hinduja data 2. Ganga Ram Hospital
7.	Dr. Ashish Yadav	Sancheti Spine Center and Hospital	1. Dr. Ketan Khurjekar, 2. Dr. Vidyadhar	Thoracic Myelopathy due to OLF/OPLL/PID: Demographics, clinical presentation and outcome of various surgical procedures.	1. Sancheti data 2. Manipal Hospital

4. Guidelines for thesis work: Dr Bhavuk Gara has compiled a "Thesis guidelines for ASSI fellows" The guidelines have been reviewed and approved by members of the Research Committee. This is now being circulated to the fellows and guides for implementation.

#### Report of ASSI Social Work Committee

Dr Shekhar Bhojraj (Chair)  
Dr Subir Jhaveri  
Dr Amit Jhala (co-opted)  
Dr Premik Nagad (co-opted)  
Dr Abhay Nene (co-opted)

#### Report of ASSI Spine-Registry Committee

Dr Rajasekaran (Chair)  
Dr Ankur Nanda  
Dr Bharat Dave (co-opted)  
Dr Amitava Biswas (co-opted)  
Dr Rishi Kanna (co-opted)

The ASSI spine registry committee has undergone a thorough revamping of its structure. Over the last 5 years this registry, which is a brain child of Dr Rajsekaran, has been gathering more than 25000 cases which have already been uploaded from various spine centers across the country. In the last 2 years, 10 centers have been continuously and diligently uploading all their cases in the spine registry and they are: .

The names of the centers are:

Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore  
ISIC, New Delhi  
Park Clinic, Kolkata  
Stavva Hospital, Ahmedabad  
Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru  
Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi  
Bombay Hospital, Mumbai  
B. J. Medical College and Hospital, Ahmedabad  
Preethi Hospital, Madurai  
Mediciti Hospital

With more than 25000 cases uploaded, an executive committee decision was made to utilize this wealth of information for research in the form of allocating research / thesis topics to ASSI fellows in accredited centers of ASSI across the country. To make this decision fruitful, fillers were sent across to all the members of education committee and research committee members regarding the topics of interest for various research projects and after filtering those, 8 such projects were allocated to ASSI spine fellows. Their mentors and thesis guides were chosen accordingly and the centers accumulating the data have also been identified. Mailers were sent to all the candidates and the thesis topics have been finalized. The registry website on the back-end is extremely sensitive and all search engines have been incorporated so that data can be retrieved efficiently and further analysis can be done. We hope that

by the end of this year, with the active participation of one and all, the ASSI Spine Registry will be the forerunner of multi centric research.

#### ASSI Advocacy Committee

Dr. Ram Chaddha (Chair)  
 Dr. Surya Prakash Rao Voletti (co-opted)  
 Dr. Rushma Tandon (co-opted)  
 Dr. Prashant Kekre (co-opted)  
 Dr. Shankar Acharya (co-opted)

#### Report of Prevention Committee

Dr. Prashant Kekre  
 Dr. Ram Chaddha  
 Dr. Rajasekaran  
 Dr. Raghav Dutt Mulukutla  
 Dr. Saumyajit Basu  
 Dr. GR Vijay Kumar  
 Dr. B.N. Upendra  
 Dr. Amol Rege  
 Dr. M.M. Prabhakar  
 Dr. K. Venkatesh  
 Dr. Karthik Kailash  
 Dr. Neeraj Gupta

#### SCI Day

First Spinal Cord Injury Day was observed on 05th September 2016, with events organized in 17 cities across India. This year the Day will be celebrated with the theme 'Yes We Can'. The theme has been chosen to highlight the ability amongst disabilities of persons with SCI. Social integration and awareness amongst general public and administrators would help uplift the condition of persons with SCI. People may be able to understand the importance of prevention programs better and thus help disseminate the information amongst masses.

The following activities have been undertaken under the guidance of SCI Day Committee:

#### 1. Brand Ambassador

The following eminent personalities have been nominated as Indian Brand Ambassador for World SCI Day:

Ms. Deepa Malik  
 Ms. Sakshi Malik  
 Mr. Abhinav Bindra  
 Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney

They have been requested to provide an audio /video clip or a written message on SCI Day. The messages shall be uploaded on [www.worldsciday.org](http://www.worldsciday.org) and would be available for participating organizers to propagate and publicize the message of SCI Day. The Brand Ambassadors have been requested to participate in the events organized by the societies.

#### 2. Events planned till date

##### i. Chennai

An inclusive Marathon rally has been planned in Chennai the capital city for the state of Tamil Nadu on [3rd of September, 2017](#)

##### i. Delhi

Wheelchair Rally at Rajpath, New Delhi on 3rd of September, 2017  
 An inclusive cultural program at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi on 5th of September, 2017  
 Poster Competition among students of educational institutes in and around Delhi.  
 Publicity campaigns at 10 Delhi metro stations

#### Prevention proposal

An effort was being made to get together various societies working in this field like International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI), Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN), Spinal Cord Society (SCS), International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT), World Orthopaedic Concern (WOC), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), Indian Academy of Neurology (IAN) and Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR) to initiate activities with a focus on injury prevention in India. The participating societies would devise the prevention program and prepare the guidelines which shall be implemented through governmental agencies.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had been approached to patronise the organization of a two-day workshop on 'Preventing injuries due to Fall and RTCs' in order to draft the framework on the program. The participants would include experts from medical fraternity, occupational specialist from different industries, agricultural experts, epidemiologists, administrators, consumers, etc. The workshop is expected to guide frame prevention strategies against fall and road traffic crashes (RTCs), with a hope to reduce mortality and morbidity in India.

An initial meeting was held in this regard with the Health Secretary Mr. C K Mishra on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. Based on it the Health Ministry asked for a presentation to be made to Dr B D Athani, Spl DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. It will be appreciated if any other member could also accompany.

#### ASSI Monograms Committee –

Dr. Gautam Zaveri  
 Dr. Raghav Dutt Mulukutla  
 Dr. R Satish  
 Dr. Amol Rege

Dr. Amit Jhala

5 monographs sanctioned by Dr Raghavdutt  
 Dr Gautam Zaveri appointed as Coordinator of project  
 Thieme publishers for the monograph.  
 Formal contract to be signed next week  
 Monograph topics:  
 Craniovertebral junction- ed: R Satish  
 Lumbar Canal Stenosis- ed: A Jhala  
 Early onset scoliosis- ed: R Mulukutulla  
 Ankylosing Spondylitis - ed: G Zaveri  
 Complications- ed A Rege  
 Target is to come up with min 3 monographs by Jan 2018  
 monographs on eos, complications and ank spond progressing well. Other 2 slower  
 couple of companies have offerwd to buy the monographs and distribute to orthopods/neurosurgeons across India  
 Project is on schedule

ASSI Nomination & constitution Committee –

Dr. HS Chhabra (Chair)  
 Dr. Arvind Jayaswal  
 Dr. S. Rajasekaran  
 Dr. Sajan Hegde  
 Dr. Ram Chaddha

Dr. VT Ingalhalkar had been looking into the ASSI constitution and any changes which may be required. This process will be continued under his guidance. Some suggestions on the constitution in track changes are enclosed. It is suggested that ASSI takes an expert legal opinion on the constitution in order to ensure that it meets the present as well as future requirements taking into consideration the mission and vision of ASSI.

ASSI also needs to regularly submit the list of elected representatives in the governing body to Registrar of the Societies each year. This has been missed so far. Action in this regard is being taken.

ASSI Website Committee –

Dr Ajoy Shetty (Chair)  
 Dr Rohit Amrtanand  
 Dr, K Venkatesh (co-opted)  
 Dr Rupinder Chahal (co-opted)  
 Dr B Upendra (co-opted)

S.No	Assigning Date	Description
1	2/14/2017	News Letter Office bearers (update)
2	2/15/2017	Upcoming event (update), request for issue username and password for 106 new members
3	2/17/2017	Office bearers fellowshio (update)
4	2/18/2017	fellowship awardsmembership form(update)
5	2/20/2017	Traveling fellowship(update) 30th ASSICON 2017(remove)
6	3/3/2017	deadlines (update)
7	3/6/2017	deadline update
8	3/8/2017	application spine fellowship (update)
9	3/9/2017	president details alication spine fellowship pdf (update)
10	3/9/2017	president message (update)
11	3/11/2017	president image (update)
12	3/17/2017	ASSI Research Grant Award 2017 (update)
13	3/18/2017	ASSI Research Grant Award 2017ASSI Two Year Spine Fellowship (update)
14	3/20/2017	ASSI Research Grant Award 2017ASSI Two Year Spine Fellowship (correction)
15	4/5/2017	Design new webpage
16	4/17/2017	inner page (update)
17	4/19/2017	Inner Page (update)
18	4/19/2017	history office (update)
19	4/20/2017	Member publication
20	4/21/2017	office bearers (update) home page (mobile responsive)
21	4/27/2017	guidelines for assi - ics (update)
22	4/28/2017	inner page (update)
23	5/2/2017	committee (update)
24	5/16/2017	Correction ( Comments on the

		ASSI Website)
25	5/22/2017	log in
26	5/23/2017	case discussion page
27	5/24/2017	Discussion Forum
28	5/26/2017	Membership form (update)
29	5/29/2017	request for issue username and password for 33 new members
30	6/2/2017	ASSI membership - username,password
31	6/3/2017	score fellowship exit examination (update)
32	7/3/2017	upload on ASSI Website
33	7/24/2017	Result of "ASSI Spine Fellowship Entrance Examination"
		1. ASSI Website Revamp
		2. Spine registry - new design.
		3. Potts - Revamp with New database, New form.
		<a href="#">4. ASSI Spine registry has been moved separately to www.assispineregistry.com</a>

**Notice for Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting of the A.S.S.I.**

The Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting of the Association of Spine Surgeons of India will be held on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 17.30 hrs in Hotel Leela, Kovalam. All members of the A.S.S.I. are requested to attend.

1. President's welcome
2. Secretarial Report
  - a. Re-constituted list of the various committees of ASSI and assignment of responsibilities to members of Executive
  - b. Updating data-base of ASSI members
  - c. Committees of ASSI
- i. Education Committee Report
- ii. Program Committee Report
- iii. Research Committee report
- iv. Social Work Committee Report
- v. Spine Registry Committee report
- vi. Website Committee report
- vii. Advocacy Committee report
- viii. Nomination & Constitution Committee report
- k. Prevention Committee report
  - d. Guidelines for short term ASSI one month spine fellowship
  - e. Shortlist Reference centres for short term ASSI one month spine fellowship
  - f. Creating eligibility criteria for various
  - g. Abolition of Hard copy of Newsletter - ASSI newsletter should be in email format not hard copy (ASSI will go paperless)
  - h. Policy decision regarding opening up ASSI fellowship to foreign nationals (mostly from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh)
  - i. SpineWeek 2020 and other International Meetings with ASSI participation
  - j. Guidelines for thesis
  - k. Asian Spine Journal Award for 2017 given to the VTI gold medal winner
3. Accounts & Income Tax Status
4. Indian Spine Journal Update
5. ASSI Mohogram Update
6. A.S.S.I. Oration
7. ASSICON 2018: Chennai - Update
8. ICS 2018: Amritsar - Update
9. ASSICON 2019: Ahmedabad - Update
10. Any other matter with the permission of the chair


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**Spine conferences from August to December 2017 – Save the dates**

Month	Dates	Conference	Society	City	Website
August	11-13	ICS 2017	ASSI	The Leela, Kovalam	<a href="http://www.icskovalam.com/">http://www.icskovalam.com/</a>
September	6-9	<a href="#">52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting &amp; Course</a>	Scoliosis Research Society	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<a href="http://www.srs.org/ami17/">http://www.srs.org/ami17/</a>
	21-23	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Combined Congress of APSS-APPSS</b>	Asia Pacific Spine Society (APSS)	Grand Hyatt, Panaji, Goa.	<a href="http://www.apss-appos2017.org">www.apss-appos2017.org</a>
October	11-13	EuroSpine	Europine Spine Society	Dublin, Ireland	<a href="http://www.eurospinemeeting.org/dublin2017">http://www.eurospinemeeting.org/dublin2017</a>

	24-26	<b>56th ISCoS Annual Meeting</b>	<b>International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS)</b>	Dublin, Ireland	<a href="http://www.iscos.org.uk/2017-annual-scientific-meeting">http://www.iscos.org.uk/2017-annual-scientific-meeting</a>
November	17-19	ISSICON 2017	Spinal Cord Society	New Delhi	<a href="http://www.issicon2017.com">www.issicon2017.com</a>
	30 - December 2	<b>Cervical Spine Research Society Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Cervical Spine Research Society</b>	Hollywood, Fla.	<a href="http://www.csr.org/events/annual-meeting/">http://www.csr.org/events/annual-meeting/</a>
December	26-31	<b>62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of Indian Orthopaedic Association</b>	<b>IOA</b>	Indore	<a href="http://www.ioacon2017.com/">http://www.ioacon2017.com/</a>

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