



## From the Desk of **THE PRESIDENT**

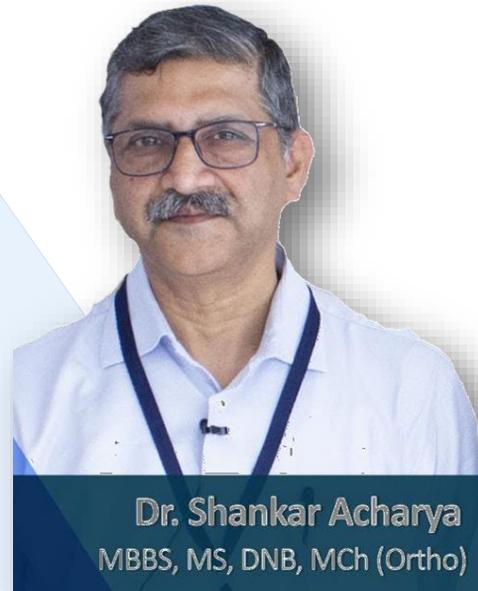
Respected Seniors and Dear Friends,

In a few weeks, we'll all gather in the historic city of Patna for ASSICON 2022. The last two years of the pandemic have been difficult for most of us, both personally and professionally, with numerous setbacks and problems. After the pandemic has passed, we hope that everyone is in good health and spirits. Despite the challenges, ASSI has persevered and turned adversity into opportunity. Three annual events have been successfully held as virtual or hybrid events.

We were able to participate worldwide from nations such as Argentina, Japan, Canada, and Germany, from the far east to the far west, at the virtual meeting in September 2020 and the annual ASSICON 2021. The hybrid live operative surgical course at ISIC was ASSI's first of its kind, and it was a major success. We were able to innovate and use technology to further the association's cause in education and training as a result of the pandemic. There were several first-time events for the ASSI, including webinars, symposia, journal clubs, ward rounds, and meeting the masters.

We congratulate all of the faculty members who contributed to the success of this event. Last year's ASSI Fellowship training and teaching workshops, as well as the research workshops, were far more effective. The registry change, outreach program, Scoliosis app, and a slew of other activities went down without a hitch. We cannot, however, rest on our laurels.

The ASSI has progressed from strength to strength since its inception. Past presidents and committee chairs have volunteered their time to help the association mature in its teaching, training, research, and dissemination of safe spine surgery concepts. Our Registry app is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> version and recently upgraded. I urge more centers to upload and also upload follow-ups. The case discussion app has been very effective in discussing difficult cases. The Indian Spine Journal is on its way to being indexed by PubMed in the near future. I appreciate all of Dr. Anil Jain's and his editing team's efforts.



**Dr. Shankar Acharya**  
MBBS, MS, DNB, MCh (Ortho)

From the desk of

*the President*



The membership of the VAAS (Value Added Spine Subscription) is continuously increasing, and I hope that in the coming years, many more people will join. Our association is unique in that it is youthful and lively, with a large number of young, dynamic, and talented spine doctors. Young people must participate more actively and lead this organisation to new heights. Spine surgery is evolving at a rapid pace, and as our understanding of our population improves, we will be able to give better and safer patient outcomes. With the latest computer navigation and robotics technology, Minimal Invasive Spine Surgery is becoming more popular and safer by the day, and I hope it becomes cheaper and more accessible to all.

The ASSI will release two new publications in Patna this year that all ASSI members should have. An Operation Theatre Manual for Spine Surgery and a monograph on 'Safe Spine Surgery' have been published by the ASSI. I'd want to thank Dr. Amit Jhalla, Dr. Pankaj Khandwal, and Dr. Amol Rege for the book on Safe Spine Surgery, as well as Dr. Nitin Adsul and Dr. Sudhir Ganesan for going over each chapter of the Theatre Manual with great care. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the authors who worked diligently at their various chapters for the book. Chetna, Saima, Harsha, and the Jaypee Publisher's team have my warmest gratitude for publishing the book on behalf of ASSI.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR), and Augmented Reality (AR) will all be used in spine surgery in the coming years. The association and its members must maintain an open mind and keep up with technological advancements. When performing safe spine surgery, keep in mind our diversified country, local facilities, and our patients' financial circumstances. We must collaborate, and I encourage everyone to join in the ASSI's numerous projects.

We eagerly await your comments and recommendations. All of the following projects were made possible by effective teamwork. Dr. Gautam, Dr. Basu, Dr. Ajoy, Dr. Chhabra, Dr. Chahal, our executive members, and all of the committee chairs have put in a lot of effort for their respective tasks, especially Dr. Charanjit, Dr. Srivastava, and Dr. Bharat. Please feel free to contact me at the email address listed below.

We look forward to meeting you in Patna.

Jai Hind....

**Shankar Acharya**  
**President -ASSI**

Email: [president@assi.in](mailto:president@assi.in) / [spineshankar@gmail.com](mailto:spineshankar@gmail.com)





# From the desk of the Honorary Secretary, ASSI...



Dear Colleagues,

I look forward to ASSICON 2022 with great excitement at the opportunity to meet, share a joke and connect with my friends and fellow colleagues from all over India after a hiatus of almost 2<sup>1/2</sup> years.

As Secretary of ASSI, I welcome one and all to Patna for what promises to be a spectacular event, put together by Dr VK Sinha and his able team from the Bihar Orthopaedic Society. In Pataliputra, the seat of learning in ancient India, home to the Nalanda University and geniuses such as Aryabhata, Sushruta and Chanakya, I am sure that the academic feast put together by the program committee will enthral you all and reignite the fire to restore India's scientific excellence.

I took over as Secretary ASSI in January 2021 between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the COVID pandemic. The past year has been spent primarily in consolidating the activities of the association and taking on further, planned projects.

During this period, we have had a highly successful virtual ICS 2021 organized by the Delhi Spine Society along with Dr Chhabra and his excellent team at the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre. Dr Amit Jhala and Dr Amol Rege have worked hard to bring together the 9<sup>th</sup> ASSI Monograph, which is on Safe Spine Surgery. Our hard-working President, Dr Shankar Acharya has put together the ASSI Operation Theatre Manual, which will greatly benefit both surgeons and operating room personnel. Dr Shankar has also taken the lead in developing and launching the ASSI Scoliosis app which will be used for Scoliosis screening. Dr Janardhana successfully organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASSI Basic Research Methodology Workshop. The Indian Spine Journal has obtained indexation in the Directory of Open Access Journals, SCOPUS and SCIMAGO. I would encourage all members to publish more with ISJ.

In the past couple of years, ASSI has successfully collaborated with Spine Societies from Japan, Canada, Germany, Argentina, Korea, Nepal and Bangladesh. We are in talks with these societies to set up bilateral projects and fellowship programs. ASSI will also be participating in the Spine Week in Melbourne from May 1- 5, 2023. I would encourage all of you to send in your scientific work and join us in Melbourne for a grand ASSI presence.

A lot has been done and achieved, but there are still a lot of dreams and still miles to go.....

Long Live ASSI !!



**Gautam Zaveri**  
Honorary Secretary, 2021- 2023

## FROM THE DESK OF THE JOINT SECRETARY & TREASURERS



Dear Esteemed members

Unfortunately, we are not completely done with the COVID-19 pandemic. With the new variants coming up now and then and infection rates picking up, albeit with less lethality. The current situation reflects the realisation that the virus is here to stay, and we will have to alter the way we live in many ways.

We originally intended to have a physical ASSICON in February 2022 but new surges and strains forced us to postpone it to April 2022. With our strong past success in looking for an opportunity in crisis and having conducted ASSICON and ICS 2021 virtually during the pandemic with large global delegate participation. With a robust vaccination program in progress in the country, we are hopeful to return to pre-covid status soon.

Now, two years down, it is time to reflect on what impact COVID-19 has had on education and what lessons can be learned.

Because of the pandemic, both students and educators found it necessary to adapt to online teaching quickly.

**Online platforms:** This is the mainstay of all distant and online communication. Hence its easy availability, uniformity and affordability will play a great role. Having digital platforms and the right technical equipment will not only help quick movements to the online environment but also support the administrative aspects. It is vital for educational societies to continually review their platforms or technologies for their obsolescence, as it can prevent them from responding effectively in the event of a crisis like that of the coronavirus.

**Databank of resources:** Having a databank of resources ready, will come in handy in any future eventuality

**Valuing the community:** It is normal to feel isolated by being away from family, friends, classmates, and teachers. Still, we must remember that spending time with other people is related to happiness. The pandemic has helped people recognize that they are part of a community and the importance of staying in touch with each other. ASSI should focus on maintaining constant communication with their educators, collaborators, and students, continuously updating them on what is happening and encouraging them to take advantage of technological tools to connect with other people.

Every challenge we successfully conquer serves to strengthen not only our will, but our confidence, and therefore our ability to confront future obstacles.

As -Jimmy Dean said: *“I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.”*

Jai Hind. Long Live ASSI.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R S Chahal".

**R S Chahal**  
Jt Secretary cum Treasurer, 2021-2023



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2023



## Past Presidents

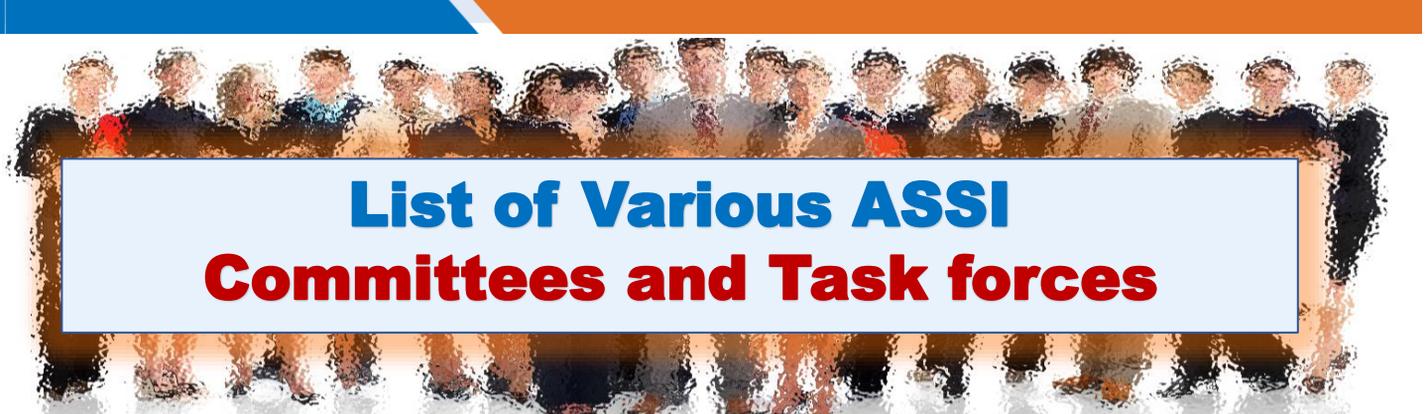
- ❖ Dr. P K Dave
- ❖ Dr. V T Ingalhalikar
- ❖ Dr. S M Hardikar
- ❖ Dr. Shekhar Y Bhojraj
- ❖ Dr. Arvind Jayaswal
- ❖ Dr. S Rajasekaran
- ❖ Dr. Sajan Hegde
- ❖ Dr. Ram Chaddha
- ❖ Dr. Raghav Dutt Mulukutla

## Core Executives

- ❖ **President**
  - ❖ Dr. Shankar Acharya
- ❖ **Immediate Past President**
  - ❖ Dr. H. S. Chhabra
- ❖ **Immediate Past Secretary**
  - ❖ Dr. Ajoy Shetty
- ❖ **President Elect**
  - ❖ Dr. Saumyajit Basu
- ❖ **Secretary & Treasurer**
  - ❖ Dr. Gautam Zaveri
- ❖ **Jt Secretar cum Treasurer**
  - ❖ Dr. R. S. Chahal

## Executive Members

- ❖ Dr. Thomas Kishen
- ❖ Dr Pankaj Kandwal
- ❖ Dr. Bhavuk Garg
- ❖ Dr Abhishek Srivastava
- ❖ Dr. Charanjit Singh Dhillon
- ❖ Dr. Vishal Kundnani
- ❖ Dr. Vikas Tandon
- ❖ Dr. Ayush Sharma



# List of Various ASSI Committees and Task forces

## ASSI Education Committee

1. Dr. Ajoy Shetty (Chair)
2. Dr. Abhishek Srivatava
3. Dr. K. V. Menon
4. Dr. Muralidharan Venkatesan
5. Dr. Prashant Kekre
6. Dr. Samir Dalvie
7. Dr. Pramod V. Lokhande
8. Dr. R. Siva Kumar
9. Dr. Sarvdeep Singh Dhatt
10. Dr. Subir N. Jhaveri
11. Dr. Gururaj Sangondimath
12. Dr. Hitesh Modi
13. Dr. Gurudip Das
14. Dr. Gautam Prasad
15. Dr. Vijay Kamath
16. Dr. Vishnu Prasath

## ASSI Research & Award Committee

1. Dr. Saumyajit Basu (Chair)
2. Dr. Bhavuk Garg
3. Dr. Shankar Acharya
4. Dr. Amol Rege
5. Dr. Ankur Nanda
6. Dr. Girish Prakash Datar
7. Dr. GR Vijay Kumar
8. Dr. J. Naresh Babu
9. Dr. Karthik Kailash
10. Dr. Kshitij Chaudhary
11. Dr. Rajakumar Deshpande
12. Dr. Rajesh Parasnis
13. Dr. Saheel Maajid
14. Dr. Tarun Suri
15. Dr. Janardana

## ASSI program Committee

1. Dr. Gautam Zaveri (Chair)
2. Dr. Pankaj Kandwal
3. Prof V.K. Sinha
4. Dr. Rushama Tandon
5. Dr. R. S. Chahal
6. Dr. Umesh Srikantha
7. Dr. Madan Mohan Sahoo
8. Dr. K. Venkatesh
9. Dr. Arvind Kulkarni
10. Dr. Appaji Krishnan
11. Dr. Jitendra Kumar Rout
12. Dr. Lalit Sharma
13. Dr. Mohinder Kaushal
14. Dr. Amit Jhala

## ASSI Website Committee

1. Dr. Charanjit Dhillon (Chair)
2. Dr. R.S. Chahal
3. Dr. Abrar Ahmed
4. Dr. Aju Bosco
5. Dr. B.N. Upendra
6. Dr. Janardhana Aithala P
7. Dr. Jim F Vellara
8. Dr. Niraj B Vasavada
9. Dr. Priyesh Dhoke
10. Dr. R Govindasamy
11. Dr. Ravi Venkatesan
12. Dr. Sachin A Borkar
13. Dr. Sandeep Kesarwani
14. Dr. Varun Agarwal

## ASSI Social Work Committee

1. Dr. Shekhar Bhojraj (Chair)
2. Dr. Vishal Kundnani
3. Dr. S. K. Srivastava
4. Dr. Abhay Nene
5. Dr. Ujjwal K Debnath
6. Dr. Ashish Jaiswal
7. Dr. Chirayu Pamecha
8. Dr. Premik B Nagad
9. Dr. Raghuprasad Verma
10. Dr. Shah Waliullah
11. Dr. Sudhir Ganesan
12. Dr. Suhail Afzal
13. Dr. Uday Prabhakar Phute
14. Dr. Yogesh K Pithwa

## ASSI Spine Registry Committee

1. Dr. Bharat Dave (Chair)
2. Dr. Thomas Kishen
3. Dr. Amitava Biswas
4. Prof. J P. Modi
5. Dr. Nalli R. Uvaraj
6. Dr. Neeraj Gupta
7. Dr. Nitin Adsul
8. Dr. R Srinivasan Iyengar
9. Dr. Rishi M Kanna
10. Dr. Sandeep Sonone
11. Dr. Devanand D

## ASSI Nomination & Constitution Committee

1. Dr. S. Rajasekaran (Chair)
2. Dr. H. S. Chhabra
3. Dr. V T Ingalthalikar
4. Dr. Arvind Jayaswal
5. Dr. Shekhar Y Bhojraj
6. Dr. Ram Chaddha
7. Dr. Sajan Hegde
8. Dr. Raghava Mulukutla

## ASSI Membership Committee

1. Dr. Shankar Acharya (Chair)
2. Dr. Vikas Tandon
3. Dr. Gautam Zaveri
4. Dr. Raghava Dutt Mulukutla
5. Dr. Shailesh Hadgaonkar
6. Dr. Ajay Krishnan
7. Dr. Ashish Jaiswal
8. Dr. Ashok Thomas
9. Dr. Dhiraj Sonawane
10. Dr. Montu Jain
11. Dr. Prateek Israni
12. Dr. Raghvendra
13. Dr. Ravish Patel
14. Dr. Shumayou Dutta
15. Dr. Vamsi Krishna

### ASSI Publications (except Journals)

1. Dr. Shankar Acharya (Chair)
2. Dr. Gautam Zaveri
3. Dr. Agnivesh Tikoo
4. Dr. Amit Jhala
5. Dr. Bhavuk Garg
6. Dr. Ketan Badani
7. Dr. Manish Chaddha
8. Dr. R.Satish
9. Dr. Raghava Mululkutla
10. Dr. Ankur Nanda
11. Dr. Pankaj Kandwal
12. Dr. Rishi Khanna
13. Dr. Kshitij Chaudhary
14. Dr. Sudhir Ganesan
15. Dr. Sachin Borker
16. Dr. Nitin Adsul

### ASSI Advocacy Committee

1. Dr. HS Chhabra (Chair)
2. Dr. Ayush Sharma
3. Dr. Sajesh Menon
4. Dr. Shankar Acharya
5. Dr. Suresh Pillai
6. Dr. V S P Rao
7. Dr. S. K. Srivastava
8. Dr. R.S. Chahal
9. Dr. Kalidutta Das
10. Dr.Appaji Krishnan
11. Dr. Feroze Ali
12. Dr. Arvind Bhawe
13. Dr. Mahesh Bijawara
14. Dr. Rajendra Mehta
15. Dr. Abhay Nene

### ASSI Prevention of SCI / Brain Injury / Osteoporosis Task Force

1. Dr. HS Chhabra (Chair)
2. Dr. Shankar Acharya
3. Dr. Alok Ranjan
4. Dr. K. Venkatesh
5. Dr. Manoj Singrakhia
6. Dr. Nalli R. Uvaraj
7. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
8. Dr. Roop Singh
9. Dr. S. S. Kale
10. Dr. Shyamasunder Bhat N
11. Dr. Sumit Sinha

### ASSI Task Force on COVID 19

1. Dr. Bhavuk Garg (Chair)
2. Dr. S. K. Srivastava
3. Dr. Rajeev Sharma
4. Dr. GururajSangondimath
5. Dr. Neeraj Gupta
6. Dr. Varun Agarwal
7. Dr. Apoorv Agarwal
8. Dr. Gurudip Das
9. Dr. Aju Bosco
10. Dr. Ami Kohli

## ASSI Task Force on Scoliosis Screening Program

1. Dr. Shankar Acharya (Chair)
2. Dr. Raghava Mululkutla
3. Dr. Appaji Krishnan
4. Dr. Saumyajit Basu
5. Dr. Ajay Krishnan
6. Dr. Ajoy Shetty
7. Dr. Amit Jhala
8. Dr. B. N. Upendra
9. Dr. Bharat Dave
10. Dr. Bhavuk Garg
11. Dr. Gurudip Das
12. Dr. Karthik Kailash
13. Dr. Ranjith Unnikrishnan
14. Dr. Sudhir Ganesan
15. Dr. Surya Prakash Rao
16. Dr. Yogesh Pithwa
17. Dr. Thomas Kishen

## ASSI Capacity Development Program Task Force

1. Dr. H S Chhabra (Chair)
2. Dr. Shankar Acharya
3. Dr. Amit Jhala
4. Dr. Bhavuk Garg
5. Dr. Gautam Zaveri
6. Dr. GururajSangondimath
7. Dr. Karthik Kailash
8. Dr. Kawaljeet Garg
9. Dr. Neeraj Gupta
10. Dr. Rajat Mahajan
11. Dr. Ranjit Unnikrishnan
12. Dr. Rishi Kanna
13. Dr. Rupinder Chahal
14. Dr. S. S. Kale
15. Dr. K. Venkatesh

### ASSI Outreach Program Task Force

1. Members Name
2. Dr. R S Chahal (Chair)
3. Dr. C Dhillon
4. Dr. Abhishek Srivastava
5. Dr. Bikram Kar
6. Dr. Feroze Ali
7. Dr. Manoj Phalak
8. Dr. Raghava Mululkutla
9. Dr. Samir Dalvie
10. Dr. Suhail Afzal

### ASSI Indian Spine Journal (ISJ) Task Force

1. Dr. Anil Jain (Chair)
2. Dr. Manish Chadha
3. Dr. Ajoy Shetty
4. Dr. Ankur Nanda
5. Dr. Bhavuk Garg
6. Dr. Pankaj Kandwal
7. Dr. Raghava Mululkutla

### ASSI Elearnspine.org Task Force

1. Dr. H S Chhabra (Chair)
2. Dr. Tarush Rustogi
3. Dr. Rajat Mahajan
4. Dr. Abhishek Srivastava
5. Dr. Ankur Nanda
6. Dr. Arvind Kulkarni
7. Dr. Ayush Sharma
8. Dr. Bhavuk Garg
9. Dr. GururajSangondimath
10. Dr. J Naresh Babu
11. Dr. K. Venkatesh
12. Dr. Neeraj Gupta
13. Dr. Shakti Goel
14. Dr. Vikas Tandon
15. Dr. Vishal Kumar

### ASSI Case Discussion forum Task Force

1. Dr. S K Srivastava (Chair)
2. Dr. K. Chaudhary
3. Dr. Jitendra Rout
4. Dr. Montu Jain
5. Dr. Raghava Mululkutla
6. Dr. Ranjith Unnikrishnan
7. Dr. Saheel Maajid
8. Dr. Sajesh K Menon
9. Dr. Yogesh Pithwa

# REPORTS OF VARIOUS ASSI COMMITTEES AND ASSI TASK FORCES



## ASSI EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

This year proved to be yet another challenging period, in which the pandemic continued to be very much a part of our lives and did not let us go back to the normal – the one we knew before March 2020. Despite the odds, the Educational committee successfully carried out the role and responsibility assigned by the ASSI. The Activities carried out this year are detailed below.

- **ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR 2021 - 2023 Spine Fellowship BATCH**

The online proctored examination entrance exam was held after much discussion and approval by the Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021. 103 candidates participated, 15 candidates were called for counselling, and 9 candidates were selected and assigned to various accredited ASSI Fellowship centres.

- **ASSI EXIT EXAMINATION FOR THE 2019 -2021 BATCH**

The exit examination for ASSI Spine Fellowship for the batch 2019-2021 was held on 16th & 17th September 2021 at ISIC Hospital, New Delhi. The Expert Panel of the Scientific, Executive and Academic Committee of ASSI approved the format for the examination, which included a theory paper (100 marks), a long case (50 marks), two short cases (50 marks each), an Oral Table 1 (50 marks) and Oral Table 2 (50 marks).

The examiners for the Exit Examination were Dr. Arvind Jayaswal, Dr. P. Sarat Chandra, Dr. Manish Chadha and Dr. HS Chhabra.

There were 9 candidates for the exit examination. These were: Dr. Sasidharan M.D.S., Dr Sanjeev Asati, Dr Deepak Agrawal, Dr. M Chandhan, Dr Jitesh Manghwani, Dr. Hriday Acharya, Dr. Kushal Gohil, Dr. Ashish Gupta, and Dr. Divakar Modipalli.

All nine candidates successfully passed the examination. The Committee would like to congratulate Dr. Kushal Gohil from Kothari Medical Center, Kolkata for securing the first rank. The Committee expresses its gratitude to Dr. H.S Chhabra, Dr. Gururaj S, Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dr. Abhishek Srivastava and Ms. Neema Bisht. The entire hospital management of ISIC was extremely supportive and took a personal interest in the conduct of the examination.





## ASSI EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

- **ASSI PG TEACHING COURSE**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the ASSI PG Teaching Program was held virtually on Sundays in August and September to cover common cases, X-ray discussion, and instrumentation. The teaching course was well appreciated.

- **ASSI FELLOWSHIP TEACHING PROGRAMME**

The ASSI Fellowship teaching programme for the academic year 2021-2022 has been started. The case discussion/teaching session is being conducted once a month with good attendance and feedback from attendees.

- **WEBSITE**

The sub-committee comprising of Dr. Muralidharan. V and Dr. Gurudip Das have made modifications to the web page of the Education committee. The Education committee web page has three main headings:

- Fellowship.
- Fellowship centres.
- Teaching courses and online activities.
- The new web page is interactive and user-friendly.

- **HANDBOOK**

Dr Vijay Kamath took over the responsibility of creating the ASSI Fellows handbook, which is now available on the website. The Fellowship handbook is a compact handbook that includes details of the fellows, fellowship centres, curriculum, thesis, and exit exams and is a valuable aid, both for the prospective and selected candidates, to navigate the fellowship years.

- **ASSI FELLOWSHIP CENTER ACCREDITATION**

The Committee is pleased to inform you that Stavva Spine Hospital and Research Institute, Ahmedabad under the mentorship of Dr. Bharath Dave, is the new and latest ASSI Fellowship centre. Dr. Abhishek Srivastava was deputed by the selection committee and successfully conducted the inspection of the centre. The Committee has also received the application forms from Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Apollo Hospital, Delhi for the ASSI fellowship training centre. The application is currently being processed.

- **Thesis update for the first-year fellows**

The committee has worked towards streamlining the thesis of ASSI fellows through regular interim updates. The fellows have started sharing the thesis protocol with the Education committee.



## ASSI Website Committee

The committee had a busy year upgrading the ASSI website to the present user-friendly avatar. The most significant accomplishment was obtaining a secure website domain with enhanced security to have encrypted and secured financial transactions. The ASSI Research section became operational and updated and the past ASSI webinars links were uploaded to the ASSI website. The Gallery section was revised with the photographs of the ASSI outreach program held in Raipur in October 2021 and Srinagar in September 2021. Weblinks for ASSICON 2022, ISSICON 2021 events were uploaded on the website.

Future plans include up-gradation of the ASSI website to allow members to update their personal profile, recent photographs and communication details online. The committee is working on having a system-generated temporary registration number for new members as soon as they pay for ASSI membership so that they can enjoy all the perks and pearls of membership immediately instead of waiting for ASSI GBM when their membership is usually approved. To make the ASSI website user friendly we propose to use an email address as a Login username instead of LM number which is sometimes difficult to remember. To encourage members to log in to the ASSI website more frequently we propose to route in the delegate registration for future ASSICON and ICS through the ASSI website.

## ASSI COVID Task Force

The task force regularly updated information on the website like appropriate guidelines, literature etc about Covid management.

The task force is continuously working on :

- Updation of Covid related resources at ASSI website relevant to spine surgeons
- Uploading of Govt standard Guidelines regarding covid management
- Guidelines about operating patients who have been vaccinated
- Guidelines about Peri-operative vaccination
- Information about if somebody recovered from CVOID and how long he/she should wait to take the vaccination
- Guidelines to do antibody tests?

The task force held an essay competition under the guidance of Dr Ajoy Shetty. This year the task force has proposed to have a "Poster or painting competition "Covid and spine surgery" or any related competition with requisite approval.

As discussed in the Covid task force meeting, currently there is no practice change or new information relevant to spine surgery. In view of the new variant, the covid situation is quite fluid. The task force will keep a watchful eye and will update/guide the ASSI members accordingly. The task force decided to issue an advisory for the current situation for ASSI members.



## ASSI ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

In the past, ASSI has been in touch with various regulatory bodies including the MCI and also a letter has been sent to Dr. Vinod Paul, Niti Aayog for his guidance and support.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has replaced the Medical Council of India (BoG-MCI), Dr Suresh Chandra Sharma has been appointed as chairman for a period of three years.

A fresh letter has been sent to Dr Suresh Chandra Sharma, Chairman-NMC for carrying out about the eligibility of orthopaedic surgeons as spine surgeons.

The following is the list of ASSI Issues:

1. Request to issue an official notification from MCI regarding "Eligibility of orthopaedic surgeon to perform spine surgery"
2. Equivalence of Tariff -
  - a) "Discrepancies in the CGHS/Ayushman Bharat rates for spine surgeries as applicable for orthopaedic surgeon vis-à-vis neurosurgeon"
  - b) Discrepancy in the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission (PMRSSM) / AB - PMJAY rate list for Spine surgeries as applicable for Orthopaedic surgeons vis-à-vis Neurosurgeons
3. The curriculum of the Postgraduate course in Orthopaedics - Management of spinal ailments to be included appropriately in the curriculum of post-graduation in orthopaedic surgery and all relevant training programs
4. Consideration of recommendations of Workshop on Injury Prevention Program.
5. Representation related to the un-approved & unproven Stem Cell therapy being practised by some entities - formulation of appropriate regulation, in the public interest. A representation signed by the Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI), Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA), Spinal Cord Society (SCS), Indian Head Injury Foundation (IHF), The Spine Foundation & Nina Foundation societies in this regard.

The Core Executive proposes to rekindle the awareness drive and come out with a series of press releases on the topics such as safe spine surgery Etc.

### **ASSI Consent Forms**

- ASSI Consent Forms had been translated into 11 languages. Late Dr Ketan Khurjekar had spearheaded this initiative.
- The committee has received back the consent forms from Dr. Appaji Krishnan and Dr. Rupinder Chahal after the final proofreading of all translated consent forms.
- All consent forms have been sent to Dr. Kohli for his medico-legal advice, he responded that he can vet only the English consent forms and for the rest of the language consent forms - he suggested some website
- Neema has already registered on this website but did not receive any response. She will again submit the request.
- Dr. Kohli and Dr. Chhabra are working on the English consent form, these consent forms will soon be available on the ASSI website for use by members.





## ASSI Capacity Development Program

Gujarat Adani Institute of Medical Sciences (GAIMS) & People's Super specialty Hospital, Bhopal had applied for the "Capacity Development Program".

A draft MOU has already been prepared and wherever the program will be launched this will be signed between ASSI and beneficiary health care facilities.

The Program has been started at GAIMS, Bhuj on 1st January 2021 under the mentorship of Dr Bharat R Dave, Dr Samir Dalvie and Dr Appaji Krishnan.

Medtronic has agreed to provide the required equipment and ASSI is providing support for live surgeries through virtual reality.

At the outset, 68 procedures were done including 36 major spine surgeries. Total Spine opd patients - around 3600.

A detailed action plan for 2022 has been devised to include service delivery along with the promotion of education and training.

A mailer could be sent to all ASSI members to check if anyone would be interested in consideration of his/her centre to be a beneficiary centre of the "Capacity development and creating excellence in spine surgery in deserving centres of India" program of ASSI.

- to initiate remote monitoring of surgeries through AR/VR system as well as to identify more centres.
- to reduce the cases for the eligibility criteria for centres for Capacity development program from 200 to 100-125.
- to work on the aim of the program to have it is not only as a "service delivery program" but also to "promote education and training."

Suggestions on "how to strengthen the program including any proposals from new centres" are welcomed by the members.



## ASSI Membership Committee

This is a newly formed committee of ASSI, whose main task is to correct and update the member's details in the database. Its responsibilities also include initiating and promoting Value Added Annual Subscription (VAAS), which was launched formally on 1st April 2021. The committee members have worked in their respective regions to promote membership.

The Herculean task of updating correct contact details of members of society, needed for smooth and optimal functioning, has been assigned to the membership committee. The membership committee has already started working on the same and has incorporated multiple ways to do the task by dividing its members into Zones (North, South, West and East), who would be responsible for personally approaching these members and getting their updated information to update the Data of ASSI.

VAAS is a much-needed requirement to modernize the Association with an updated membership list. This will also enable us to give additional privileges to the VAAS members.

Some of these are :

- Free subscription to e-journal (ISJ)
- Eligibility for various official positions
- Rebate the registration fee for all the conferences and events organized under the aegis of ASSI
- Eligibility for applications for Research Grants / Awards / Fellowships
- Eligibility for participating in Spine Registry and Multi-centric Research Projects
- Eligibility for presenting papers at ASSI events.

There are three membership slabs, available on the ASSI website for the VAAS membership.

- Life Membership fee of Rs. 5,000/- + 18% GST
- Value Added Subscription Services (VAAS)
  - Annual Charges - Rs. 1000/- per year + Rs. 180/- (18% GST) = Rs. 1180/-.
  - For 03 years - Rs. 2500/- + Rs. 450/- (18% GST) = Rs. 2950/-

The idea of the VAAS is to improve the active participation of our members in the activities of the society and also identify them and felicitate them as and when deemed appropriate. Presently the membership committee is working on formulating a point system for identifying these active members.

At present we have around 3900 life members in which enrolled 254 (177 with 3 yr subscriptions and 77 with one-year subscriptions) are members all over the country with the western part of the country having the most members.

## ASSI Nomination and Constitution Committee

During the GBM held during ASSICON 2021, there was discussion regarding the revision of eligibility criteria for various posts including consecutive terms, and publication/submission in ISJ as a prerequisite for candidature in EC.

The nomination committee in its meeting recommended that ASSI revert to a 2 years term for President subject to requisite approvals. It was also decided that EC members can't have 2 consecutive terms. It was agreed that the President-Elect will assist the President in the day-to-day functioning of the Association and perform all the functions of the President in his absence.

The list of Executive should be filed every year with the registrar of the Societies and the changes in the constitution should be circulated to the members for their opinion with a timeline. If they agree, then it will be put up to GBM for final ratification.

### ASSI Election 2022

The following vacancies were announced during the last GBM:

Post	Vacancy
Executive Members	03

As you would be aware that earlier we received 04 applications for the post of Executive Committee Member. Only one person was found fit to contest for the post while the rest three were found ineligible. Due to this predicament, the nomination committee of ASSI recommended a call for fresh applications with a revised deadline.

We have received 08 applications in response to the fresh call for the post of "Executive Member". As per the screening status - *Dr Sarvdeep Dhatt and Dr Tushar Rathod* did not fulfil the eligibility criteria. Hence *only 06 members are eligible* for the post of Executive Member.

As we have only *02 seats available* and all *06 members are eligible* for the post of "Executive Member". Hence there would be *an election between all 06 candidates* for the post during *ASSICON 2022 in Patna*.

## ASSI Research and Award Committee

ASSI Research and Award Committee streamlined the various ASSI research activities including the formulation of guidelines for multicentric studies and research proposals. Timelines for various research proposals are being set up and the studies going on under the banner of ASSI are being closely monitored. Multicentric studies under the banner of ASSI are making international footprints in the form of prestigious podium presentations and PubMed indexed publications. All ASSI research activities are regularly updated on the ASSI website. An independent panel of judges was formed for all ASSI research awards and the panel successfully completed the evaluation of various awards, based on which results were declared.

The committee has been instrumental in starting a bi-annual Research Methodology Workshop, which was widely appreciated and the first 2 of them were overbooked and completed. This virtual program was coordinated by Dr Janardan Aithala and involved a galaxy of eminent faculty from across the country. A unique project entitled "Delphi Based ASSI Survey regarding the indications of surgery in a biopsy-proven case of Adult Spinal TB" was started and the second round of questions is soon going to be circulated. Future plans of this committee include strengthening of current guidelines and timely completion of current projects, continuing the ASSI Research Methodology Workshops and enhancing the participation of centres of excellence in multicentric studies.

## ASSI Case Discussion Task Force

There have been constant efforts to make this mobile-based App more usable and informative for our ASSI members. There has been a significant increase in the number of ASSI Members who have downloaded the App and got authenticated. This number has now reached 604.

Executive committee members of ASSI, ASSI Core Committee Members, ASSI Connect coordinators and ASSI Fellows have been active in further enhancing the usage and to re-refine the App on day to day basis. The App has gone through an upgradation too. Now cases can be uploaded through a laptop also. There have been uploading of 698 cases so far.

At present ASSI CONNECT is in better shape with new features. The initial hiccups have been sorted out by the developers. The task force strongly feels that it is a continuous process of metamorphosis and the issues which arise have to be dealt with on an urgent basis. Feedback from all the participants is very vital for continuous improvement hence the task force requests all the users to raise any issues which can then be worked out with the developer.

## ASSI Social Work Committee

Within the constraints of the pandemic, social committee work was continued, with the innovation of virtual clinics at multiple locations, in the far-flung corners of the country. Regular online OPDs for spine ailments along with multiple health camps were conducted for various rural areas which included SEARCH - Gadchiroli, DY Patil Medical College - Kolhapur, GMC - Akola, Tribal health initiative hospital - Sittilingi, Tamil Nadu, tribal villages of Rajnandgaon and Bilaspur in Chattisgarh, deep interior border adjoining villages in Rajasthan and Shahdol, Katni, Bhopal of Madhya Pradesh, Srimad Rajchandra hospital, Dharampur, Gujarat and Govt Medical College, Ambajogai.

ASSI central social committee is in discussion with the government of Madhya Pradesh, Govt. of Chattisgarh and Govt. of Rajasthan to adopt district health care centres for providing quality spine and Orthopedic care in liaison with ASSI. MOU has been submitted and we expect the permissions in place very soon.

The district health centre, Trauma centre, Shahdol Madhya Pradesh was visited by the team of the ASSI social committee and requirements for creating a world-class spine Center were informed to the government officials. Similar discussions with officials in Katni, and Bilaspur are in place and we expect the necessary permissions very soon.

It was decided that the ASSI logo should be used during all social work activities either virtual or physical and they are doing so.

## ASSI Spine Registry Committee

The committee had virtual meetings and will release the updated Version 3 will be available soon with additional diagnoses e.g. Covid, Robot, O-arm, Navigations, Missing Diagnosis. In order to encourage regular data contribution, the centres which have not uploaded the cases in the last few months are to be removed. If the center/s wants to be a part of the registry, they will have to re-apply for it. It was decided to make the follow-up data mandatory for each centre at 03,06,09,12 months. To introduce new diagnosis and open-ended box for the "Name of the Patient". To introduce "alert option" for the follow-up entry. This will make sure that the center adds data on the follow-up basis. Collaboration with IOA Registry.

The following 05 research questions have been finalized to allot to ASSI Fellowship centers:

1. Morbidity and mortality data of spinal surgeries from the national ASSI Spine Registry
2. post-operative and post-procedural spinal infections: Epidemiology and their management from the national ASSI Spine Registry
3. Management and outcome of spinal injuries from the national ASSI Spine Registry
4. Long term clinical Outcomes of surgeries in high cervical injuries - a prospective study from ASSI Spine Registry
5. National tumor registry-outcome and management of various Spinal Tumors

## ASSI elearnspinr.org Task Force

ASSI came out with [elearnspine.org](http://elearnspine.org) on the lines of [elearnsci.org](http://elearnsci.org). There are two versions for [elearnspine.org](http://elearnspine.org) – one for spine experts and the other for consumers.

This Proposal was approved by ASSI in January 2019. Finalization of Editorial board, coordinator and sub-committee members had been done. The web resource was being prepared by Grapes Software. Guidelines for authors for each sub-module had been framed. We have launched 4 modules and 22 sub-modules of the resource during the ASSI Virtual Conference in 2020. Work on the other modules and sub-modules is on and hope to launch more of them during the forthcoming ASSICON.

The Editorial Committee Meeting decided to include a module on "Surgical steps and Video Library" and suggested uploading 20 videos of the ASSI live Surgical Course in 2018. Experts have been finalised and requested to prepare surgical videos. The module on "Surgical videos" will be able to show the various surgical techniques through video recordings contributed by stalwarts in the field as per a common pre-decided format. There are around 12 surgical videos ready as per the guidelines.

## ASSI Prevention Committee

As always the Taskforce was very active in organizing various events throughout the calendar year and especially on SCI Day.

The theme of SCI Day this year was "Covid-19 and SCI: Staying healthy with the help of Telecommunication and Telehealth". Due to the pandemic, it was not possible to carry out in-person activities and given the threat of the 3rd wave, it was suggested only to have online activities.

The task force intends to carry out the injury prevention program in 20 cities with various ASSI member representatives. The injury prevention program had been launched during the ASSICON 2021 conference on January 21 under the aegis of the Health Ministry, during which the representative from the Health Ministry participated and was happy to support the injury prevention week.

A detailed action plan has been worked out for 2022 and is being executed diligently by the task force which includes outreach through various local spine associations and other agencies to create awareness and sensitize the population at large.

## ASSI Program Committee

After two tumultuous years, when words like Mask-up, social distancing, and COVID 19 entered our lexicons, the Association of Spine Surgeons of India together with the Bihar Spine Society is getting ready to host a physical ASSICON, at Patna from 29th,30th April & 1st May 2022. As usual, the scientific program for the meeting will be of the highest standards and will focus on "Degenerative afflictions of the Back and Neck". Workshops on advanced surgical techniques and video demonstrations of various spine surgeries are also being planned.

The ASSICON 2022 is composed of 04 pre-conference workshops, International faculty participation, Keynote addresses, Presidential Lecture/orations, ASSI awards, VTI Medal Papers, Presentations, Panel discussions, Free Paper and Rapid Fire Sessions, post-conference workshops, interactive case-based discussions, where you all can participate by putting in questions, this is one Academic bonanza no one should miss. Additionally, we have joint sessions with the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) which promise to be an educative and exciting sessions.

After ASSICON 2022, The program committee is designing a program for ICS 2022 & SpineWeek 2023.

## ASSI ISJ Task Force

The task force is pleased to inform you that ISJ got indexed in 'Directory of Open Access Journals(DOAJ), SCOPUS and Scimago Journal Ranking. The Process for evaluating the journal for indexing with Pubmed Central (PMC) is in progress. The task force requests all the members to cite ISJ articles where relevant while submitting a manuscript for publication, which will further help in getting the journal indexed with PMC.

We are planning to get the journal indexed with PubMed Central (PMC), To create a page/link on social media sites with an aim to increase the visibility of our journal. Planning to start ISJ Award for Best Published Paper, if approved by ASSI - EC. The publisher will change from Wolters Kluwer to SAGE later in the year, as decided in previous zoom meetings. The current agreement with Wolters Kluwer is expiring on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2022. The publisher needs to contact pharma/surgical companies for advertisements for ISJ to generate funds. Publishers can also contact agents/subscribers to get more subscriptions. Senior members and executives of ASSI to help in procuring advertisements.

Dr. Upendra Bidre wished to be excused from being a member of the ASSI Task Force due to other commitments. Dr. Pankaj Kandwal and Dr. Ankur Nanda have been included in the Editorial Board as members.

ISJ has received 69 manuscripts so far, which we hope will reach 130-140 by the year-end. All the members are requested to submit at least one original article to ISJ to increase the number of submissions. If there is an increase in submissions we may look into the possibility of increasing the frequency of journals. The task force encourages all the members to keep their email and mailing addresses updated for the prompt delivery of the Journals etc.

## ASSI Outreach Task Force

Given the prevailing pandemic hesitation, the already decided program for outreach was not feasible. However, since the pandemic is not evenly spread throughout the country and there are safe regions in the country with low incidence. The task force decided to have an outreach program at such places in hybrid mode.

The first outreach was done in Srinagar on September 25, 2021, at Police Hospital, Srinagar. Dr. Shankar Acharya President ASSI and Dr. Rupinder Chahal Joint Secretary /Treasurer ASSI and Chair ASSI Spine Outreach Program were present. Dr. Shankar Acharya was the course chairperson and Dr. Suhail Afzal was the organizing secretary. 49 delegates had registered for the program. The delegates included eminent and senior orthopaedic surgeons along with senior residents and postgraduate students. The scientific program devised was “Fundamentals and Basics of Spine surgery” targeting the young and aspiring Spine Surgeons of the valley. The program had 4 sessions:

- 1) Lumbar Disc Prolapse and Lumbar Canal Stenosis
- 2) Spondylolisthesis
- 3) Infections
- 4) Thoracolumbar Trauma

The second ASSI Outreach Program was held in AIIMS, Raipur on the 16th of October, which is “World Spine Day”. The department of Orthopedics, AIIMS Raipur hosted the spine outreach program in collaboration with Chhatisgarh orthopedic Association in the AIIMS Raipur auditorium. The organizing chairman was Prof Alok Agrawal. The whole program was conducted in a hybrid mode to avoid many gatherings because of COVID regulations. The total number of participants present physically was 52, in online mode 89. The program was also aired on ORTHO TV in which 11 people had logged in.

The third ASSI Outreach program was held in Durgapur on 03rd April 2022 at Durgapur. The Highlights of the course are as under:

- The National & International faculty
- Fundamental & basics of Spine surgery (5 Sessions)
- Interactive case-based panel discussions

We are pleased to inform you that ASSI is planning to host an academic program namely "ASSI Spine Outreach Program" in 2022 in the undermentioned cities. The program will be attended by reputed spine surgeons from the respective cities with approximately 60-65 delegates.

- March 2022: Mangalore
- May 2022: Pondicherry
- July 2022: Bhubaneshwar
- October 2022: Manipur
- December 2022: Jodhpur



it's time to

**RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**

## Initiation of “Annual Subscription for Value Added Subscription Services (VASS)” in ASSI

- ASSI will continue with the life Membership fee of Rs. 5,000/-
- Life members will continue to have voting rights.

### Rights and Privileges for those subscribing to “Annual Subscription to VAAS”

- Free subscription to e-journal (ISJ)
- Eligibility for various official positions
- Rebate in the registration fee for all the conferences and events organized under the aegis of ASSI
- Eligibility for applications for Research Grants / Awards / Fellowships
- Eligibility for participating in Spine Registry and Multicentric Research Projects
- Eligibility for presenting papers at ASSI events.

**ENROLL NOW**

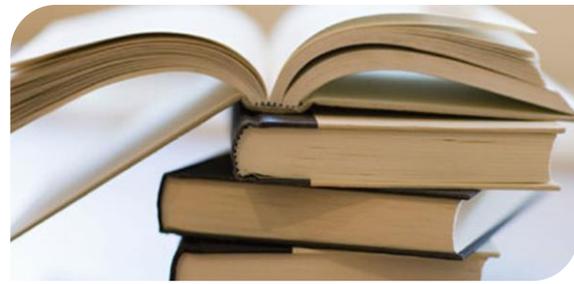
**Annual Charges = Rs. 1180/- (incl. 18% GST)**

**For 03 years = Rs. 2950/- (incl. 18% GST)**

Registration link : <https://assi.in/Subscription-Services.php>

Kindly note that “there should be a compulsory tab for putting “ASSI Life Membership no” without mentioning this you can't enroll for VAAS. If you do not remember your ASSI membership no, then kindly contact Ms. Neema Bisht at 89299 91288.

## NON-ACADEMIC ARTICLES



# Increasing Life Expectancy: A boon or bane?

*By Dr Rishi M Kanna MS MRCS FNB Spine, Spine Surgeon,  
Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore*



There is something very enticing about the edentulous smile of old people. It is something akin to a toddler's smile. Whenever I spoke to Mrs Lakshmi, her smile and incessant speech would be captivating. She was a breast cancer survivor and had lived courageously braving the troubles of major surgery, chemotherapy, periodic scans and innumerable doctor visits for 8 years. When I first met her in the clinic a year ago, she presented with back pain which turned out to be a recurrence of breast cancer with spread to the spine.

Like a brave soldier, she went through a major spine surgery and recovered well. But the mandatory post-surgical radiotherapy to the spine resulted in a wound breakdown. She was in her 8<sup>th</sup> decade now and co-existent diabetes and cardiac issues were serious challenges to healing her wound. But she never missed sporting her smile whenever I met her. Finally, she was discharged after a month-long stay.

Like a ghost movie, when we thought that she had successively come out of our hell, she returned to the hospital six months later, with a clot in her lungs. Now she had lost her innocent smile. With the long periods of hospitalisation, multiple tubes likely to be inserted into her, a battery of investigations and prospects of another surgery loomed large on her. I was pretty sure that with intensive care and high-end medications, we can prolong her survival but she had lost her will, like me. The life expectancy of an average human being was around 40 years in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Due to dramatic improvements in modern medicine and public health initiatives, the life expectancy has soared to 75 years now across the globe (The global population aged 60 years and above in 1980 had doubled by 2017).





In particular, vaccines to reduce the incidence of communicable diseases, early diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases, effective surgical treatment and handling of complex injuries have made humans live longer than their ancestors. Though many lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension and heart diseases are affecting people earlier than before, a barrage of medications is available to keep these diseases under control. Many take these medications for 20 to 30 years decreasing the risks of early death. Modern cancer chemotherapy, precision surgery and focused radiotherapy have made the survival of cancer patients much longer than before. All these have kept death at bay but at the cost of disability. This poses philosophical questions of prolonging the disability due to ageing.

As we age, the incidence of neural diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, and musculoskeletal diseases make the mobility of elderly people difficult and painful. In developed societies where an adequate social health care system is in place, the lives of the elderly are reasonably well supported. Social discussion groups, home care nurses, delivery of essential goods and recreation centres help them tide over the disability with reasonable comfort. All governmental and private places are equipped with ramps, easy access to toilets, elevators and comfortable parking places such that the senile continue to have a life that they enjoyed in their later years.

However, in developing countries like India, the increasing life expectancy among the elderly seems to be a bane for many. The disintegrated joint family system and lack of governmental societal support is a double whammy on the plights of the elderly. With many children working abroad or having odd and long working hours, the old people are left to fend for themselves with their disabilities and sometimes with a significant financial burden. They are dependent on online delivery agents and good Samaritan neighbours and auto-drivers, to access basic groceries and services. The problems are further magnified by the psychological effects of loneliness ('Empty-Nest syndrome') adding to the physical impairments.

Unlike other animals and plants whose life expectancy has remained the same for millions of years, humans have tricked nature and prolonged their life, albeit with a bad baggage. Modern science is evolving leaps and bounds every day, finding treatments for many diseases and postponing the inevitable. I am not arguing that science should not evolve and diseases should not be treated. But there should be simultaneous changes in the way how we move into old age and how we are supporting the elderly. Similar to retirement financial plans, physical fitness to reduce future musculoskeletal disability should be focused on, at least from mid-life. Sedentary lifestyle, job stress and obesity in the background of prolonged life are fodder for disability in the older age. Emphasis should be made on prevention in earlier years and later to improve the quality of life, ease of living and preserving dignity, rather than just prolonging life for the sake of it.

***It is not the years in your life that count – it is the life in your years. Abraham Lincoln.***



**Combined**  
Instructional Course in Spine &  
ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course

**Degenerative Spine: Basic to advanced management**

**August 27 to 29, 2021**

Organized by Spinal Cord Society & Indian Spinal Injuries Centre



## Report of the Combined Instructional Course in Spine & ASSI Live Spine Surgery Course 2021

ASSI Combined Instructional course in spine and Live Spine Surgery Course was organized by Spinal Cord Society in collaboration with Canadian Spine Society (CSS) and Japanese Society for Spine Surgery and related research (JSSR) in a virtual format from 27th to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021. 13 live surgeries covering the entire spectrum of spine surgery were performed by renowned experts at Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi and was projected LIVE on a virtual platform.

The course had a strong national impact with a total of 144 faculty including 30 international renowned surgeons. The course was attended by 246 leading orthopaedic, neuro and spine surgeons as delegates from across India and other countries like Bangladesh, Kuwait, Nepal, UAE and UK. There were two sessions which were Combined sessions with the Japanese society for spine surgery & related research (JSSR) & Canadian spine Society(CSS). The highlights of the course also included 6 masterclasses and 36 Interactive case-based panel discussions.

## ASSI participation in the Korean Society of Spine Surgery (KSSS)

ASSI had received an invitation from the Korea Society of Spine Surgery (KSSS), inviting ASSI members to the “International Congress 2022” of the Society which will be held from May 26th (Thu) - 28th (Sat) at the Swiss Grand Hotel, Seoul, Korea. KSSS has offered 05 complimentary registrations to ASSI. KSSS also offered an honorarium of USD 250 for offline and USD 100 for online.

The following members will be attending the KSSS Meeting as representatives of ASSI:

1. Dr. Shankar Acharya
2. Dr Ayush Sharma
3. Dr. Charanjit S Dhillon
4. Dr Sachin Borkar
5. Dr. Janardhana Aithala
6. Dr. Shyamasunder Bhat N
7. Dr Bikram Keshari kar
8. Dr Vijay H D Kamath

## Korea Society of Spine Surgery (KSSS) participation in ASSICON 2022

Every year KSSS invites ASSI members to participate in their Society's Conference and also extends complimentary registrations. They also invited the President, of ASSI to attend and give a talk.

KSSS has accepted our invitation to participate in the ASSICON 2022: Virtual mode.

Their President, Dr. Bong-Soon Chang, and 5 members will be participating and presenting their work at the event.

# KSSS 2022

The International Congress of  
Korean Society of Spine Surgery

May 26(Thu) - 28(Sat), 2022  
Swiss Grand Hotel Seoul, Korea

## ASSI Participation in the 2nd International Spine meeting (INSPINE 2022) in Kathmandu, Nepal on 9th April 2022

ASSI had received an invitation from the Spine Chapter of Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons (NESON) with regard to the 2nd International Spine (Hybrid) Conference of NESON (INSPINE 2022) in Kathmandu, Nepal which was held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 with the theme of "Towards Excellence in spine care". This was preceded by a pre-conference workshop and a "National Spine Health Program" workshop on 8th April 2022. This meeting was conducted in conjunction with World Spine Care, World Spine Column Society and the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Spine Committee.

The scientific committee requested ASSI for a 2 hours symposium on "Motion Preservation in Spine Surgery" on 9th April 2022. The program of the Symposium is as under:

10:16 - 10:18 hrs	Welcome Address by the NESON Vice President	Prof. Amit Thapa	Nepal
10:18 - 10:20 hrs	Welcome Address by the ASSI President	Dr. Shankar Acharya	India
10:20 - 12:02 hrs	"Motion Preservation in Spine Surgery" session Moderators: Dr. Samir Acharya, Dr. Pratyush Shhrestha		
10:20 - 10:32 hrs	Motion preserving technologies for degenerative lumbar Spine: The Past, Present, and Future horizons	Dr R S Chahal, Jt. Secretary cum Treasurer, ASSI	India
10:32 - 10:34 hrs	Q&A		
10:34 - 10:46 hrs	Cervical Laminoplasty or Laminectomy plus fusion in multilevel CSM: Pros & Cons	Dr. Saumyajit Basu, President-elect, ASSI	India
10:46 - 10:48 hrs	Q&A		
10:48 - 11:00 hrs	Adjacent Segment Disease: Can we prevent it?	Dr Binod Bhattarai, NESON	Nepal
11:00 - 11:02 hrs	Q&A		
11:02 - 11:14 hrs	Artificial Disc: Do we have a perfect implant?	Dr. Arvind Kulkarni, ASSI	India
11:14 - 11:16 hrs	Q&A		
11:16 - 11:28 hrs	Does a dynamic top-up in lumbar fusion prevent adjacent degeneration: Gangaram experience	Dr. Shankar Acharya, President, ASSI	India
11:28 - 11:30 hrs	Q&A		
11:30 - 11:42 hrs	Retrolisthesis: Etiopathogenesis, does it signify instability?	Dr Ajoy Shetty, ASSI	India
11:42 - 11:44 hrs	Q&A		
11:44 - 11:56 hrs	Recurrent Lumbar disc prolapse-dissectomy or fusion	Dr Gautam Zaveri, Secretary, ASSI	India
11:56 - 11:58 hrs	Q&A		
11:58 - 12:10 hrs	Unilateral Laminotomy Bilateral decompression in Lumbar Spine: Does it preserve spine stability	Dr Samir Acharya, NESON	Nepal
12:10 - 12:02 hrs	Q&A		

**ASSI** ASSOCIATION OF  
SPINE SURGEONS  
OF INDIA



# iCS 2022

**INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE IN SPINE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

Hotel Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Dr. Shankar Acharya**  
Patron

**Dr. Madan Mohan Sahoo**  
Organising Chairman

**Dr. Jitendra Kumar Rout**  
Organising Secretary & Treasurer

**REGISTER TO ATTEND OVER 40 CONFERENCE SESSIONS**



**150+**

EMINENT SPEAKERS -  
INTERNATIONAL &  
NATIONAL



**8**

KEYNOTE  
SESSIONS



**500+**

DELEGATES

**Conference Secretariat:** Spine & Ortho Care

Infront of DAV Public School Sailashree Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751021

**Email:** [ics2022bbsr@gmail.com](mailto:ics2022bbsr@gmail.com) **Web:** [www.ics2022bbsr.com](http://www.ics2022bbsr.com)

# ASSI Participation in the SpineWeek 2023 in Melbourne

Dates: 1st to 5th May 2023



Melbourne, Australia

Association of Spine Surgeons on India (ASSI) would be participating in Spine Week 2023 as a partner. SpineWeek is organised every four years and gathers all major global spine societies in one world congress. As a result, SpineWeek attracts 3000 to 3500 congress participants (orthopaedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, physiatrists etc.) and 200 to 250 exhibiting companies bringing in an additional 2000 sales reps in the exhibition. It is a major World Congress on Spine Surgery. *SpineWeek 2023* is scheduled from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Melbourne, Australia.

It is hoped that this will give good visibility to ASSI. This would be our main meeting for 2023. ASSI session would be held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 in Melbourne, Australia. We plan good joint symposia for half-day involving all stalwarts from the region. We feel this will help give good visibility to ASSI. The executive of ASSI is also looking at the possibility of subsidized rates for their members.

The 'Abstract Submission' is functional now from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 onwards and the deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022. For further information, you could log on to [www.spineweek.org](http://www.spineweek.org)

**2 YEARS SPINE SURGERY CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP 2022 - 2024**

**TRAINING INSTITUTIONS**

Apollo Hospital, Chennai	BJ Medical College & Civil Hospitals & Director, Ahmedabad	Bombay Hospital, Bombay
Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore	Indian Spinal Injuries Center, Delhi	Kothari Medical Center, Kolkata
Leelavati Hospital, Mumbai	Sancheti Spine Centre & Hospital, Pune	Stavya Hospital, Ahmedabad

**Eligibility Criteria for candidates:**

- MS Ortho/DNB Ortho / MCh Neurosurgery
- Must have demonstrated interest in spine surgery (attending spine conference and presentations, publications related to spine surgery etc)
- Must have MCI registration
- ASSI Life Membership including "Value Added Annual Services (VAAS)" (By 15<sup>TH</sup> June 2022)

**Program features:**

- Selection based on online entrance examination (provisional date will be 7th August 2022). Taking the fellows is based on the scores of the entrance examination. The candidates will be selected on this basis.
- Course starts from 1st October 2022
- 09 vacancies. Choice of centers depends on availability, ranking etc.
- Opportunities for both clinical and research work
- Thesis completion is mandatory
- It is mandatory to submit one manuscript every year to Indian Spine Journal (ISJ), official journal of ASSI, during the 2 years of fellowship
- Uploading cases in ASSI Connect App
- Participation in the management of ample spine surgical cases
- Maintenance of a logbook & Structured Training
- Exit exam at the end of the course with Certification

**Last Date of Application :**  
**30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Interested candidates must apply with  
their CV by mail at :  
[assisecretariat@assi.in](mailto:assisecretariat@assi.in)



# AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS/PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS OF ASSI MEMBERS

*(From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022)*



## **Dr. Aju Bosco**

- Selected as "Vice-Chair of the Young Surgeons Committee of SICOT (International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology)" till October 2022.
- Selected to feature in the "North American Spine Society's Best in Class of 2021 Award". This is a prestigious honour awarded by the North American Spine Society based on academic excellence, contributions to spine research, philosophy of care, and career achievements.
- Awarded the "Nuvasive SICOT Foundation Award and Scholarship" for career achievements in spine surgery.
- Awarded the "Prof. Mayilvahanan Natarajan Gold Medal in Orthopaedic Oncology" at the annual conference of the TamilNadu Orthopedic Association 2022, for the clinical work on, "The management of Aggressive Vertebral Hemangiomas presenting with Neurological deficit".

## **Dr. Arun Kumar V**

- Won the National level "Prof. HKT Raza Gold Medal Award" at IOACON in December 2021 as the First orthopaedic spine surgeon who received this award.
- Won the state level "Prof. Vyaghreswarudu Gold Medal Award" at OSSAPCON in February 2021.

## **Dr Arvind G Kulkarni**

- Our unit represented and won the 2021 "Best New Methodologies and Techniques to Enhance Safety in Spine Surgery Award" constituted by International Safety in Spine Surgery Project (USA) for our project on 'Spine Surgery Checklist: A Step towards Perfection through Protocols'
- Nominated SMISS-AP (Society of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery -Asia Pacific) Fellowship Co-ordinator
- Nominated as Deputy Editor of JMISST (Journal of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery & Techniques), Korea.





# AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS/PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS OF ASSI MEMBERS

(From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

## Dr Ayush Sharma

- Awarded “Dr Ketan Khurjekar, Gold medal” during 66th Annual conference of India orthopaedic Society in 2021.
- Awarded “North American Spine Society research award 2021” for the titled “Prospective randomized control pilot study to compare the role of injection Cerebrolysin in operated cases of Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy” during 36TH Annual Conference of North American Spine Society ( NASS), Boston 2021
- Achievements as Keynote speaker during “6th world congress on spine and spinal disorders” in Dubai.2021

## Dr. Bharat R Dave

- Awarded with prestigious Shalin Manav Ratna award by Anupam Mission in December 2021.

## Dr. Bhavuk Garg

- Awarded as “IOA silver jubilee oration award” in 2021
- Awarded as “DOA Best Publication Award” for >40 years category in 2021
- Awarded as “Best New Methodologies and Techniques to Enhance Safety in Spine Surgery” in 2021
- Awarded as “ISCR’s – ACCRI National Award” for the Excellence in Academic Clinical Research in 2021
- Awarded “Honorary Fellowship of GAPIO (Global association of physicians of Indian Origin)”

## Dr B K S Sanjay

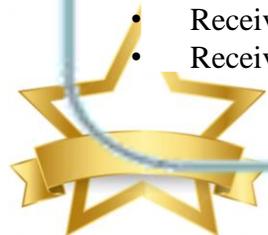
- Orthopaedic and Spine Surgeon have been conferred with Padma Shri by the hon'ble President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on 9 November 2021.

## Dr Ghanshyam Kakadiya

- Awarded “International Society of Orthopaedic and Traumatology SICOT & OREF Travelling Award” in 2021, Budapest Hungary
- Awarded ESCEO-IOF Young Investigator Award-2021, London
- Awarded Best paper Award: Lumbar Spine Research Society 2021

## Dr Gururaj Sangondimath

- Received best paper award at Korean Spine Society Annual Congress in May 2021
- Received Vishisht Kannadiga Award in November 2021





# AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS/PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS OF ASSI MEMBERS

*(From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022)*



## **Dr Jwalant Patel**

- Dr. Michael Vitale has selected his abstract: "Spine Surgery Checklist" A Step towards Perfection through Protocols to receive one of ten awards of 1000 USD for Best New Methodologies and Techniques to Enhance Safety in Spine Surgery. They have invited him to present his work during the live Safety in Spine Month Webinar on April 15, 2021 on Checklists and Guidelines which Make Spine Surgery Safer.

## **Dr. Nandan Marathe**

- Awarded the Fellow Research Award from the North American Spine Society (NASS) on the Study Title "Prospective Randomized Control Pilot Study to Compare the Role of Injection Cerebrolysin in Operated Cases of Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy".
- Awarded the Best Poster Award during the annual conference of MISSAB (Minimally Invasive Spine Surgeons Association of Bharat) on the study titled "Anatomic considerations and Functional Outcomes of Endoscopic Transiliac Approach for access to the L5-S1 disc and foramen".

## **Dr Rishi Kanna**

- Published two books in the last year - The Phoenix Doctors (a medical drama) and Surgical Strokes (a collection of cartoons).
- Received the Tamilnadu Orthopaedic Association's President award in 2022 for excellence in medical and non-medical writing.

## **Dr Sachin Borkar**

- Appointed as Editor for Journal of Spinal Surgery, the official publication of Neuro Spinal Surgeons' Association of India
- Published a book as editor-in-chief on Cervical Spine Trauma( AIIMS Neurosurgery Case Book: Cervical Spine Trauma, Salubris Medical Publishers, Delhi,2022)
- Elected as EC member for Neurotrauma Society of India(NTSI) for the term 2021-24
- Nominated as EC member of Delhi Spine Society
- Nominated as a core member of the Young Neuroscientist's Forum (YNF) of Neurological Society of India
- Successfully completed the term as Honorary Treasurer of Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery(ISPNS)(2018-22)
- Award Winner 2022. Best New Methodologies and Techniques to enhance safety in spine surgery.. Instituted by US based safety in Spine Surgery Project.





# AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS/PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS OF ASSI MEMBERS

*(From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022)*



## **Dr. S. Dilip Chand Raja**

- Got ASSI Young Investigator Award for the year 2021 for the paper titled “The Catastrophization Effects of an MRI Report on the Patient and Surgeon and the Benefits of 'Clinical Reporting' - Results from an RCT and Blinded Trials”
- Got VTI (VT Ingahalikar Gold Medal Paper) Award during ASSICON 2021 for the paper titled “Why do Modic Changes Result in Poor Clinical Outcomes? – Novel Insights from Proteomic analysis of Lumbar discs with Modic changes.”
- Got APSS-ASJ Best Basic Science research award: APSS-APPOS 2021: PS-BP-9 – “Novel biomarkers of health and degeneration in human intervertebral discs - in-depth proteomic analysis of collagen framework of fetal, healthy, scoliotic, degenerate and herniated discs”
- Got North American Spine Society and The Spine Journal Best Outstanding Paper 2021: Modic Changes are Associated with Activation of Intense Inflammatory and Host Defense Response Pathways - Molecular Insights from Proteomic Analysis of Human Intervertebral Discs.
- Best Oral Podium Presentation in Basic Science- ISLLS Virtual Annual Meeting 2021: Human Lumbar Discs are not sterile! - Defining the Normal Intervertebral Disc Microbiome.
- Best Oral Podium Presentation in Clinical Research - ISLLS Virtual Annual Meeting 2021: The Nocebo Effects of an MRI Report on the Patient and the Benefit of Reassurance - Results from a Randomized Clinical Trial of 44.
- APOA Best Presentation Award in Infection APOA 2021, Malaysia: “Presence of Preoperative modic changes and endplate defects are independent risk factors for developing postoperative surgical site infection - a retrospective case-control study”.
- Selected as Section Editor for Spine in Indian Journal of Orthopedics

## **Dr. Subramaniam.M.H**

- Selected as a Faculty member to conduct the Global Spine diploma program 2022, run by AO spine, Davos Switzerland.

## **Dr. Vishal Kumar**

- Awarded FRCS (England) in the Convocation Ceremony on 24th Nov, 2021 at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, U.K and also completed a short term fellowship in spine surgery at The Centre for Spinal Studies & Surgery, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospitals, NHS Trust, U K.



**ASSI** Monograph

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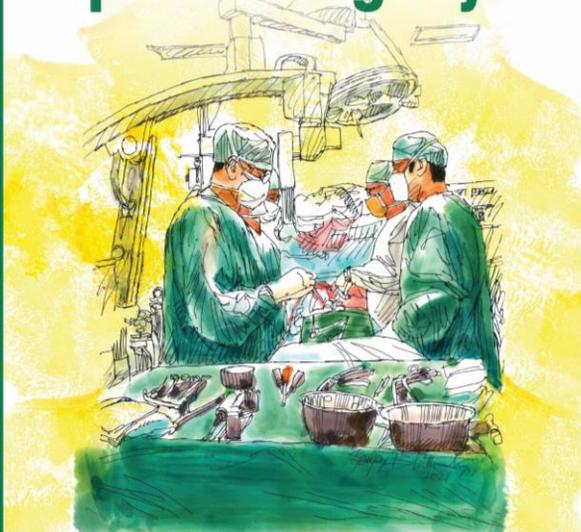
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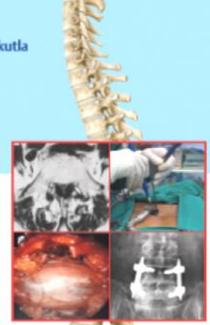
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# ASSI OUTREACH PROGRAM GALLERY



## One day 'Spine Outreach Programme' held at Police Hospital Srinagar

Srinagar, Sep 25: J&K Police Hospital in collaboration with the Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) & Orthopaedic Surgeons Association Kashmir (OSAK) organized a day-long 'Spine Outreach Programme' at the auditorium of Police Hospital Srinagar. A group of eminent spine surgeons, orthopaedists and other distinguished guests from Kashmir valley & across the country participated in the event. Prominent among them were Zubair Ahmad Khan-JKPS, Administrator J&K Police Hospital Srinagar, Dr. Shankar Acharya

started the conference at 0830hrs. At the outset, Dr Suhaib Afzal, Consultant Orthopaedics & Spine Surgeon (Organizing Secretary) in his welcome address thanked the dignitaries for gracing the conference with

well-heartedly co- to this vital institu not look for what it to is. Meanwhile, the highlights were lectures as well as on SAW Bone Mod shop. There were sessions, viz: (I) Lum Prolapse and LCS dyolysis (II) In and (IV) TLI Spine F Each session cover sub-topics includin Disc Prolapse, Mic tomy, Lumbar Can sis, Spondylolisthe Tuberculosis of Sp operative Discitis, tures, Osteoporotures, Instrument Osteogeretic Spine, Workshop etc. The guests spoke in det the current cutt research in Spine



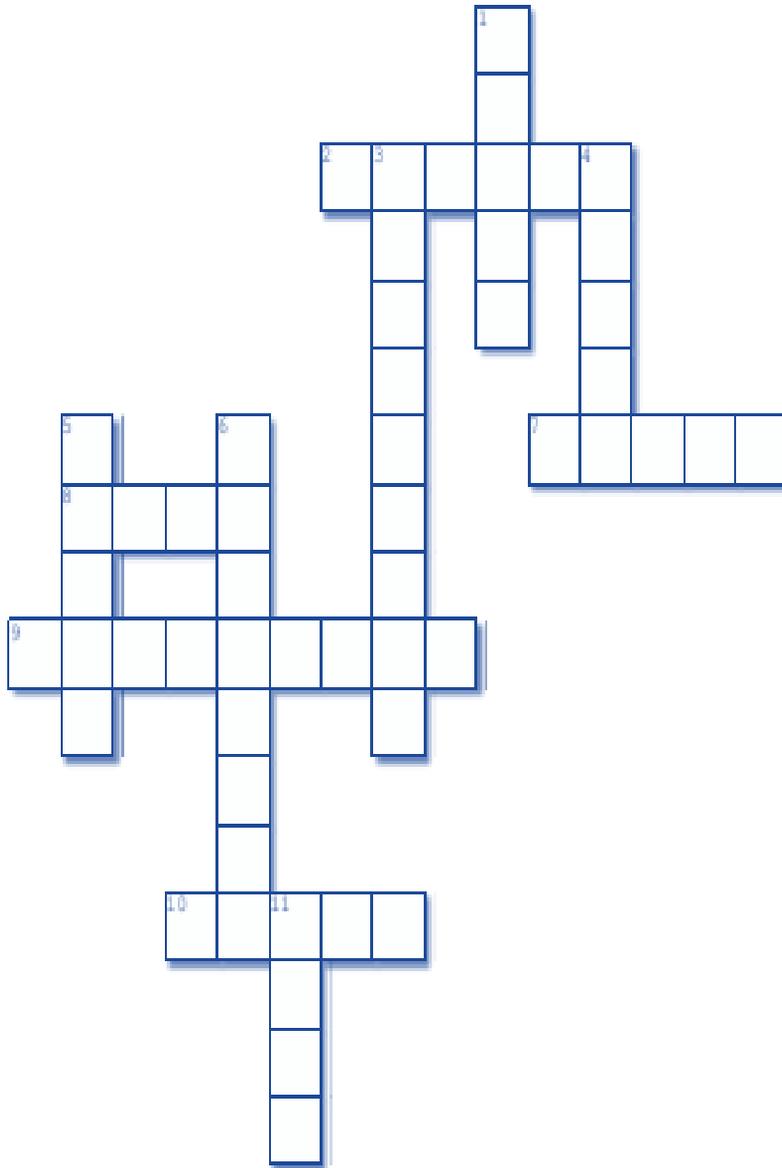
**ASSI Outreach Programme**  
**Focus on Degenerative Spine**  
 16th Oct 2021  
**WORLD SPINE DAY**  
 Organized by  
 Dept of Orthopaedics  
 All India Institute of Medical Sciences Raipur  
 in Collaboration with  
 Chhattisgarh Orthopaedics Association

**ASSI Outreach Programme**  
**Focus on Degenerative Spine**  
 18th Oct 2021  
**WORLD SPINE DAY**  
 Organized by  
 Dept of Orthopaedics  
 All India Institute of Medical Sciences Raipur  
 in Collaboration with  
 Chhattisgarh Orthopaedics Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Spine word

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

2. 25 degree lateral , 45 degree cephalad
7. Favourite probe
8. Spine India
9. Injury to Atlas
10. Oldest Spine disease

### Down

1. TLIF
3. Broken bamboo
4. Wires and rods
5. Magic for kids
6. Spine growth
11. Middle path

Kindly submit your solved spine puzzle to ASSI Secretariat at  
[assisecretariat@assi.in](mailto:assisecretariat@assi.in)