

## **Gmc Golden Jubilee Standing Committee** **Teleconference Minutes**

**Sunday, February 20, 2005**

Members Present: Drs. Cheela, Sarma, Kusuma, R.D. Kumar (Chair), Surakanti, Reddy, Chintalapudi, Dilip Rao, Ramdev Singh, Sudhaker Rao (Recording Secretary)

Members Excused: Drs. Kota, Rupani, Sarala Rao

Guests: Dr. Chandra Sekar (Secretary GMCAA, Hyderabad)

Meeting was called to order by Dr. R.D. Kumar, Chair, Standing Committee at 9:07 p.m. He had previously distributed the agenda for tonight's conference.

He informed the committee members that the composition of the Standing Committee has been almost completed. Two members from the previous Ad Hoc Committee decided not to continue on the Standing Committee but were willing to serve on the subcommittees as the need arises. Dr. R.D. Kumar will give the final list to Dr. Surakanti, President of the OUMA, for approval by the OUMA Executive Committee sometime in the next couple weeks. In addition, Dr. Sudhaker Rao, previous Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee will submit the final report recommending formation of the Standing Committee.

Dr. R.D. Kumar recommended the following 3 subcommittees and requested all the subcommittees to brainstorm and come up with recommendations for the future. Other sub-committees will be formed as the need arises

Global Alliance: Drs. Manchikanti, Surakanti, and Rupani. They will work towards establishing a separate organization to look after the fundraising activities and long range goals of the GMC Alumni Education Center AEC).

Building Subcommittee: Drs. K.P. Sarma, Babu Ramdev Singh, Govind Rao (Chair of the Osmania Alumni Charitable Foundation Inc) and V.V.S. Sarma (GMCAA, Hyderabad).

Educational & CME Committee: Drs. Varadaraj, Cheela, Chitalapudi and Sudhaker Rao.

Website Committee: Drs. Sagaram, Dilip Rao, and D. Sudhaker Rao; Mr. Prashanth Rao will be our webmaster

Scholarships Committee: Drs. Dilip Rao and Shashidhar Reddy

Dr. R.D. Kumar updated the financial status of GMC Golden Jubilee AEC. He mentioned that he had discussions with Dr. Govind Rao and the information was as follows: So far \$105,000 has been sent to GMCAA, Hyderabad, India for construction of the AEC and we still have another \$184,000 in the bank. This is after a 7% reduction for the administrative costs by the Osmania Charitable Foundation Inc. Several members asked questions because of some confusion about the exact numbers. Therefore, he asked Dr. K.P. Sarma to look into in more detail since he has the first hand knowledge and clarify to the committee members at the next teleconference on March 6, 2005.

Dr. K.P. Sarma updated and Dr. R.D. Kumar added that the construction of the AEC is on target. The ground floor has been completed. The first floor roof will be done in 1-2 weeks. The deadline given to the architect and engineers is end of September 2005, but realistically it might be December 2005. Dr. Sarma also informed the members that the concern about architect has been resolved and the architect will be cooperating in the future.

Dr. RD. Kumar then discussed about future fundraising activities briefly. A major focus will be fundraising during AAPI convention in Houston in June 2005. Dr. Kusuma volunteered to call Dr. Ravinder Reddy in Houston and Dr. RD. Kumar will call Dr. Rajasekhar, also in Houston, to host this fundraising activity similar to what we did in San Diego in June 2004.

Dr. Sudhaker Rao updated about a potential collaboration between Henry Ford Hospital and Gandhi Medical College for exchange of students and post-graduates. The proposal is being prepared by Dr. Peter Coggan who visited us during the celebrations. Once this is finalized, the document will be distributed to the committee members for critique and approval. It is anticipated that the room and board will be provided by Henry Ford Hospital and the only cost to the committee will be airfares.

Along the same lines, both Drs. Dilip Rao and Shashidhar Reddy brought up the subject of scholarship programs (see above). All members present felt it was an important aspect of our mission, but probably requires much more thinking and planning. Many members felt that we should not undertake this task until after the AEC construction is complete. Both Drs. Dilip Rao and Shashidhar Reddy will work on the guidelines for the scholarship programs.

Dr. R.D. Kumar requested all the members to voice their experiences about the Golden Jubilee Celebration. Several members expressed both positive and not so positive experiences. All agree that we should learn from our mistakes and build on our strengths so that future meetings/celebrations can be done in a proper manner. To the extent that this could have been avoided, Dr. Sudhaker Rao took the responsibility of not foreseeing the problem and depended heavily on the GMCAA executive committee's decisions despite some hints of potential problems. In retrospect it was probably not wise. It was suggested in the future

we should perhaps seek event managers, even if it costs some money. Several members expressed dissatisfaction with the transportation to the evening programs, confusion at the registration desk, lack of a “formal protocol” for celebrations in general and inaugural and valedictory functions in particular, etc. Facilities were not to the desirable expectation. Several important Ad hoc Committee members were not recognized and many members felt all of this that it could have been avoided.

Dr. Kusuma raised an important question about the committee’s involvement in the GMCAA governance. He felt that we should have a voice, both in terms of participating in GMCAA deliberations as well as having a member on the Executive Committee of the GMCAA. It was felt that at least one member from the this committee should be serving on the GMCAA. Perhaps Dr. Kusuma can explore this further along with Drs. R.D. Kumar and Sarala Rao, Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee.

Dr. Kusuma mentioned that he donated an endoscopy to the Gandhi Hospital and had a meeting with the State health secretary. He updated the deliberations. Similarly, Dr. Surakanti updated his meetings with Chief Minister, and health secretary. However, he did not have an opportunity to specifically lobby for GMC Alumni Education Center.

Dr. Dilip Rao mentioned that website requires updating, modernizing and renewal of the contract. Dr. Sudhaker Rao volunteered both to renew the website and help with the website committee (see above).

Dr. Surakanti invited Dr. R.D. Kumar to participate in the OUMA Executive Committee meeting next week and also asked Dr. Sudhaker Rao to submit the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Dr. R.D. Kumar gave an opportunity to each member to express their final thoughts. At the end of their input Dr. Sudhaker Rao informed that the next meeting will be Sunday March 6, 2005 and then every first Sunday of each month thereafter until our task is completed. E-mail notification will be sent to all members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Sudhaker Rao