

Minutes of the November 9, 2010 GMCGA Teleconference

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Meeting was called to order by Dr. Sudhaker Rao, Secretary GMCGA at 9:05 p.m. Dr. Sarala Rao, President of the GMCGA was unable to attend early, but she joined later on.

Dr. Sudhaker Rao welcomed the new executive committee members consisting of Dr. Sarala Rao President; Dr. Mukesh Sanghadia, Vice-President; Dr. Sudhaker Rao, Secretary; Dr. K.P. Sarma, Treasurer; Dr. Ramesh Naram, past president; members at large, Dr. Bala Totapally, Dr. Prabhakar Sharma, Dr. Syed Mukaram, Dr. Vasu Garlapati, Dr. Vithal Kusuma, Dr. K. Muralikrishna Rao and Govind Rao; Advisors: Drs. R.D. Kumar and Ravinder Surakanti.

Members present Dr. Sudhaker Rao, Dr. K.P. Sharma, Dr. Mukesh Sanghadia, Dr. Prabhakar Sharma, Dr. R.D. Kumar, Dr. Sarala Rao, Dr. Syed Mukaram, Dr. Vasu Garlapati, Dr. Vithal Kusuma, Dr. Muralikrishna Rao.

Members excused, Dr. Bala Totapally, Dr. Ramesh Naram, who were visiting India, Dr. Lingaiah Katam, President GMCAA in Hyderabad could not attend because of earlier commitment, Drs. Govind Rao & Ravindra Surakanti were on vacation. We invited Dr. Santosh Cheela, but could not attend.

Dr. Sudhaker Rao briefed the agenda for teleconference, which included a review of the proceedings of the 4th annual meeting in Detroit, October 1-3, 2010 at Novi Sheraton. He mentioned that overall the meeting was very successful both in terms of attendance, new members joining the meeting, and fund raising. He thanked the organizing committee consisting of Drs. Narsimha Reddy Chada, Vasu R. Garlapati, Sudarshan Reddy, Mrs. Kausalya Chada, Mrs. Karuna Garaapati, and Mrs. Hema D. Rao. He also thanked Drs. Mukesh Sanghadia & RD Kumar for organizing the banquet entertainment and all the participants.

DS Rao reviewed expenses for the meeting as follows:

Sheraton, Novi	\$6738.35
Mailing (approx)	\$960.00
Ashoka Restaurant	\$5000.00 (final figures pending)
CME administration fee	\$800.00
Total (Approx)	\$13,498.35

Income:

Diasorin	\$7500.00
Northwestern Mutual	\$1500.00
Registration	\$4500.00
Art Sale	\$1000.00
Total (Approx)	\$14,500.00

He summarized by saying that we should be either revenue neutral or slightly positive for the entire meeting without any expenses from the organizational trust fund. In addition, he mentioned that the \$800 CME administration fee will be paid from his personal grant accounts.

Next agenda item was clarification of the Bylaws and members at large elected. Floor was given to Dr. R.D. Kumar, Chair of the Bylaws Committee and in charge of the elections at the Detroit Meeting. During the discussion it was also mentioned that Drs. Ravinder Surakanti and R.D. Kumar will remain as advisors to the executive committee.

There was a discussion whether one should reestablish the board of trustees in light of Dr. Vithal Kusama's suggestion that all the money should be kept here, only the earned interest should be used for maintenance of the AEC in Hyderabad. This will be discussed in detail at the future meetings.

Discussion was held on the 5th annual meeting in September 2011. Floor was given to Drs. R.D. Kumar and Sarala Rao. Dr. Sarala Rao yielded to Dr. R.D. Kumar, who has already done a lot of the legwork. He mentioned that Newport Beach in Southern California is ideal; not too big and is a quaint little town and very near to the beach with easy access by air and road. He and Dr. KP Sarma looked at two hotels: Marriott and Hyatt regency each with some advantages and disadvantages. They allow outside catering. If we spend at least \$7000 for food and beverages there will be no rental for the conference room. The current price for one night stay is \$169, but Dr. R.D. Kumar was hopeful that could be negotiated down to \$120-130. He suggested that we should sign early because of the Labor Day weekend. Dr. K.P. Sharma, who also visited the 2 hotels concurred with Dr. R.D. Kumar's description and suggestions. After further discussion, everybody was in agreement that we should proceed.

There was some discussion whether we should have the meeting Friday through Sunday versus Saturday through Monday, the majority felt that it is better to have Saturday through Monday, this will allow people to fly in Friday night or Saturday early morning. The John Wayne airport is very close to the Newport Beach with flights arriving from many cities.

Dr. R.D. Kumar mentioned about the CME activity approaching Dr. Puroshatam Kota, GMC Alumni member, to get involved in the daily activities and another person, who might also be helping him, if not Dr. Sudhaker Rao will try to coordinate this. Dr. Sudhaker Rao also suggested that perhaps we should have couple of new members on this committee to expand the expertise and scope.

Dr. R.D. Kumar mentioned that the overall budget for the next meeting will be close \$20,000 – 25,000, which is a bit higher than \$14,000, but not excessively high considering Detroit versus California. We may have to raise the registration fees to perhaps \$150 single \$300 for couple. This should offset some and we may still have to raise funds to keep the meeting expenses revenue neutral.

There was no update from AEC simply because Dr. Lingaiah could not attend. Dr. K.P. Sarma updated his conversation with Dr. Lingaiah about recent condolence meeting on the passing away of Dr. G. Narsinga Rao, former principal of Gandhi Medical College, superintendent of Gandhi Hospital. It was done very well. Dr. Sudhaker Rao mentioned that a letter of condolence with sympathies to the family was sent on behalf of the GMCGA by Dr. Sarala Rao earlier, which was read at the condolence meeting in Hyderabad.

There was further discussion regarding trust fund and Dr. Vithal was given the floor. Dr. Vithal Kusuma mentioned that all of the future donations and contribution should be kept in a trust fund and only the interest earned should be spent for the maintenance of AEC and its activities. Dr. Sudhaker Rao added that although our obligation to the medical school has been fulfilled and we are not in obligation to raise funds. However, over the years, we have discussed at length and felt that a corpus fund would guarantee a perpetual maintenance of the AEC without any economic crisis in the years to come. To this end, Dr. Ravinder Surakanti, who envisioned the idea initially still felt that this should move forward and we are hoping to raise at least half a million dollars if not more in the next five years or so. We have begun very nicely in Detroit and we hope to continue this in the next five years. Considering more than 1500 alumni in this country alone this should be an achievable goal.

It was reemphasized by Dr. Kusuma that even though we may not have financial obligation, we still have a moral obligation to keep the AEC going. Dr. Sudhaker Rao agreed and accepted the correction.

Since this is such an important item, it will be tabled for the time being and further discussions will be held at the future meetings as a major agenda item along with discussion about the board of directors, since this requires rethinking of the organizational structure, which Dr. Sudhaker Rao highlighted.

Sudhaker Rao also urged all the new members, who joined the meeting to visit the www.gmcga.org to familiarize themselves with the Bylaws of the organization and make note of the changes that have been made in Chicago as well as in Detroit, so that they are familiar with the organizational structure and changed substantially from the initial drafting by Dr. Manchikanti. Dr. Prabhakar Sharma wanted some clarification of the obligations for the members at large and Dr. Sudhaker Rao clarified.

Agenda item old business, Dr. Sudhaker Rao updated that the website is still not quite up to the par in terms of its activity. He will discuss with the web company in great detail and try to upgrade it. Also, get the PayPal installed so that people can contribute with credit cards.

No new business items were brought except the ones we discussed earlier. Dr. Sudhaker Rao urged all the members to e-mail Dr. Sarala Rao, President of the organization with any comment, questions, and suggestions they may have to move the organization forward.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m. and Dr. Sudhaker Rao thanked on behalf of the organization all the members who took the time to attend it. The next meeting will be January 4, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted by
D. Sudhakar Rao, MD
Secretary