



## Indian Orthodontic Society Extraordinary EC Meeting

**Date: 25-04-2021**

**Day: Sunday**

**Place: Virtual Meeting**

### **Members Present:**

President: Dr. Siju Mathew  
Hon Secretary: Dr. Sridevi Padmanabhan  
Vice President: Dr. Surya Kanta Das  
Imm past President: Dr. Pradeep Jain  
President Elect: Dr. Srikrishna Chalasani  
Joint Secretary: Dr.Gnanashanmugham  
Editor JCO-IOS: Dr.Pradeep Raghav  
Editor IOS TIMES: Dr.Kannan Sabapathy  
Chairman IBO: Dr.Ketan Vakil

### **Executive Committee Members:**

Dr.Amesh Kr. Golwara ,Dr.Ankit Sikri ,Dr.Arjun Nayak U S,Dr.Ashish Garg ,Dr.AshishKumar Barik,Dr.Deena Dayalan.P, Dr.Divyaroop Rai, Dr.GauravGupta, Dr.Kavitha Iyer,Dr.Pritam Mohanty,Dr. Padma Priya C.V, Dr.Rajganesh Gautham,Dr.Reji Abraham, Dr.Salil Nene ,Dr.SanjuSomaiah M.K ,Dr.Siddarth Shetty, Dr.Vedavathi.H.K, Dr.Virag Bhatia , Dr.Vinod Krishnan,

**Excuses:** Dr.Sanjay Labh , Dr.Puneet Batra, Dr.Ajit .K. Pillai ,Dr.Edeinton Arumugam, ,Dr.P.JaipalReddy, Dr.Swati S. Acharya, Dr.Tripathi Anand Awadhesh, Dr.Uday Kumar Digumarthi,

The President welcomed the gathering and called the meeting to order. Meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes due to lack of quorum. Meeting reconvened at 9.15. President welcomed all and thanked the members present for making it to the meeting in such difficult times amidst surge in Covid -19.

Two minutes of silence was observed as a mark of respect to members and their family members who lost their lives since the last EC Meeting at Chennai.

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Needed/Remarks</b>
1.Future Course of Actions on Unethical Practices of IOS Members	<b>Hon. Secretary</b> briefly reviewed the discussions that were done during the last EC Meeting. Dr.Hitesh Nagarath had been sent a communication informing him that he has been made a member of not Good standing until the next meeting. This was as decided in the 6 <sup>th</sup> EC meeting. Dr. Samir Uppal has tendered his resignation to IOS and has started conducting courses for BDS graduates almost immediately. The Secy had replied to him stating that a three month notice period was necessary as per the constitution.	<b><u>Resolution 1</u></b> The local study group to be taken into cognizance and approach the local dental council for a complaint through a local lawyer and in legal course of action the study

	<p>As per the discussions of the last meeting the Hon.Secretary and the Hon. Joint Secretary had paid a visit to the IOS Counsel Mr.Rajagopal to discuss on the future course of action on the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Unethical courses conducted by our own members and others</li> <li>2) Do it yourself (DIY) Aligner companies.</li> <li>3) The Council also was requested to work on Separating the Main Article from the Bye laws of IOS Constitution</li> </ol> <p>The IOS Counsel suggested that we first represent our concerns as regards 1 &amp; 2 to the Dental council of India and Ministry of Health asking them to take action against these companies. If they failed to respond which is likely, then IOS can file a Writ petition requesting for directions from DCI to act on this issue.</p> <p><b>Immediate Past President (IPP)</b> suggested that this is a matter that has to be addressed by the Local State dental Council. An individual through a local lawyer with adequate evidence can complain to the state dental council about the company with allegation of Quackery and it is the state dental council which takes disciplinary action against the concerned party and informs the local Collector further which a criminal proceeding can be initiated.</p> <p>Alternatively a case can be filed to the constitutional committee of Unfair Trade Practices requesting for punitive actions.</p> <p><b>Hon.Secy</b> explained that DCI has made its stand clear against individuals doing unethical courses through its circulated communications. Considering this the DCI, may be approached and requested for cancellation of the licenses of Dentists doing these unethical courses. As far as DIY courses are concerned we need more clarity from the Lawyer and President suggested for a virtual meeting of POB with him for further discussion.</p> <p><b><i>Additional Discussion on the issue</i></b></p> <p>Dr.Salil suggested using ‘Unfair trade practices’ as terminology for complaint against DIY aligners instead of ‘Quackery’ as the companies have employed Orthodontists and this approach can weaken our stand.</p> <p>Dr.Rajaganesh asked whether educating or training orthodontists will also come under unethical practice as only institutions are qualified to impart education. IPP answered that those are extension or continuation of Education and is short in nature while certificate courses run by academies for 6 months or one year on completely new things are concerned as Unethical practice. Dr.Kannan was concerned about the chronicity of this issue for many years and also the limitation IOS has in acting against members in this issue. He also said that the issue is complicated as even Universities are conducting short term courses for students. President said that the situation now is peculiar as a member has tendered</p>	<p>group will be the first Party and the IOS will be the second party provided IOS has not taken any action at that point of time.</p> <p>Proposed by Dr. Virag Bhatia and seconded by Dr.Arjun Nayak.</p>
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his resignation to conduct courses and we have to find a solution to stop this tendency.

**Dr.Siddarth** suggested that we deal the issue with a two pronged approach, legal option being one and Public Awareness being the other.

**Hon. Secretary** asked whether General members should be made aware about any disciplinary action taken against a member. IPP suggested that Secretary Issue an Order based on EC directions which should reach the particular member by speed post and as well be placed in IOS website. On answering **Dr.Kannans** query he suggested that a small line can be added in the IOS TIMES under EC Directions. Further answering **Dr.Gauravs** query he said a news article about the EC Direction can be published in newspaper and not as an advertisement or announcement which will invite defamatory charges. President seconded the same.

PE placed on record the appreciation he received from Members for exploring Legal options by the EC and in fighting Unethical Practices by members and companies. Vice president suggested that we involve all specialty organisations in this fight against Unethical courses. He insisted that this would have more weight age especially when we approach legally. Joint Sec. said, other societies may not be actually bothered about these courses conducted by their members. President also agreed that based on his interactions with other the specialty officials. But he as well agreed to open the discussions to them to know their perception in this issue.

President finally summarized the future course of Actions  
***Future Actions on the issue***

To consider this as two different Issues

1. Dealing Individual Members organizing unethical courses  
Individual member/Local Study Group can file a complaint through a local Lawyer to state dental Council. If IOS has not taken any action against the Member it can be added as the second party of representation

Currently for Dr. Samir Uppal- Not to accept his resignation and to consider future course of action.

For Dr. Hitesh Nagarath-After referring the matter to Constitutional Committee expulsion can be done at the AGM

2. Dealing with DIY Aligner Companies

To have a virtual meeting of POB with the IOS Counsel to discuss on the inputs of the meeting pertaining to this issue and plan the future course of Action

2.Contingency Plan  
For 55<sup>th</sup> Agm And  
Election

**Hon. Secretary** said that in view of the surging Covid Cases it was decided in the last EC meeting to explore the options of Online Voting. PE and Hon. Joint Secretary had offered to explore the possibilities in this regard. President invited the Joint Secretary to share the Preliminary work done by the committee. The Joint secretary shared the following information. Indian Prosthodontic Society (IPS) has used a platform called RIGHT2 VOTE an India based company for their society Elections last year. A positive feedback was given by the IPS officials regarding their experience with the platform to the J.S

**Online platforms that were considered are**  
Right2vote - 10000 for 200 voters and additional 25 rs for every voter (Additional helpline services at additional costs 5000/line)  
Election online .com 2500\$ for annual contract  
Electionbuddy.com 89\$ for1000 voters

Considering the familiarity of the platform, accreditation (approved by Ministry of corporate Affairs – GOI) and security features **Right2 vote** online platform was explored in detail by the Committee.

Data of verified voters List along with their Email ID, Mobile number need to be provided.

An invite with a voting link and Login ID will be sent to the Email of all the voters.

The voter needs to enter the OTP received to get in to Poll page for voting. The Voter shall receive a Thank you message which is the confirmation for completion of voting. Alternatively Aadhar based verification can also be effected provided we give the Aadhar details of the voters. The authentication shall happen by OTP to Aadhar registered mobile number before gaining access to the actual voting page. The other security features of the platform includes :  
Secret Ballot  
Audit Trail – Record of IP address, voting time and location  
Server confirmation- confirmation from server before vote is recorded (to avoid transit hacking)  
Voter receipt- Sent by SMS/Email. (Accounts for accuracy of the system)  
Voter selfie – For additional Audit Trail and transparency  
Vote Record – Voter can verify anytime that his vote is recorded properly. Data will be direct from the server (A feature that assures lack of post voting Hacking)  
And additional features like Geo tagging, geo fencing,, End to end encryption, STPV voting ( option to select more than one choice in a category), Real Time results and more importantly Remote Voting are integral part of the system.

Hon. Secretary asked whether we need to give the whole member database to them. Joint secy explained that we need to have a separate registration for AGM and provide the final registrants list with Email, phone number and aadhar number

**Resolution 2**

The elections at the 55<sup>th</sup> ioc shall be app based and after considering available options have decided to go with the APP based platform called right2vote.

***Future course of Action***

To initiate the process of negotiating with them and also have a trial Proposed by **Dr.Pritam** and seconded by **Dr.Deena Dayalan**

(if aadhar authentication is opted for)

Dr.Salil suggested using our LM ID card as mode of verification. Dr. Gaurav explained that the platform is linked to a server that has GOI uid database integrated in it and so the verification is an automated process.

Joint secretary added that the member verification of the AGM registrants will happen at the Head office level and the final list of verified voters will be provided to the service provider. The Aadhar OTP authentication/ Non Aadhar OTP authentication shall happen at the time of voting to avoid any online mal practices.

President suggested that the invitation with link be sent from the HO Instead of the platform. Dr.Gaurav suggested that complete third party operation from beginning to end shall eliminate the question of Bias and also it is easy as it is an automated process.

President and Hon. Secretary suggested a trial run before the actual elections. Joint sec assured to get back after discussions with the service provider. They had hinted that they might charge for the same.

President enquired about charges for phone help lines for members during voting. Joint secretary informed that it will be an additional cost of 5000/technical help line.

***Deliberations on opening the online voting for the entire membership***

Answering the question of Dr.Sanju somaiah and Hon. Sec on different possible scenarios that can arise due to covid surge ,President explained that the constitution is not clear about restricting the voting to members who are present physically .He further added that voting should be opened for the entire membership if we end up with an online Election. President Elect said that it can be a historic decision but also controversial. He said opening the voting to entire membership may be unfair for members who take pain to participate in IOS activities regularly. It may allow non active members to take part just in elections. On the other side this decision can allow more focus on academic aspects during an annual conference. So he requested for more time to decide on this matter as it is highly a sensitive decision to make.

President replied that we have to abide by the society law which says every member has a right and should be allowed to Vote. Dr.Rajaganesh mentioned that the lack of clarity should not allow us to take a unilateral decision. President agreed and said we have to take the cognizance of members in terms of a referendum.

Hon Sec mentioned that we have to include the information about the possibility of an online Election in the Election notice due in May .She also suggested that we get a legal opinion from the lawyer in this regard.

President reinforced that we be both Legally and constitutionally correct and follow all procedures necessary

	<p>before taking a final decision</p> <p>Joint secretary placed on record the contribution of Dr. Amesh in collecting information regarding the online voting platform apart from him and Dr.Gaurav</p>	
3.World Health Day celebration	<p>President briefed on the plans for two day interactive activity to benefit young rising stars and student. The activities ranged from Lectures, Quiz to panel discussions. The theme is Interdisciplinary orthodontics which sets an opportunity to interact with other specialists in dentistry.</p> <p>Dr.Salil suggested that we can focus more on Public awareness rather than the regular academic presentations.</p> <p>Hon.Secretary also seconded and suggested we have themes like Public awareness, orthodontics and health etc.</p> <p>Dr.Rajaganesh on behalf of Academic Council presented the initial preparations and plans for WOHD. The idea was to emphasize on the themes like importance of orthodontics in respect to general health and oral health, to showcase the importance of orthodontics among all dental specialities and Public Awareness</p> <p>Event Categories</p> <p>Rising star – Presentations on Interdisciplinary Orthodontics</p> <p>Student scientific paper presentations</p> <p>Creative ideas with animations, short videos, reels on interdisciplinary orthodontics and public awareness</p> <p>App based quiz using Kahout App</p> <p>Interdisciplinary Panel discussion</p> <p>Dr.Ashish Garg informed that the brochure will be ready in two days and call for paper presentation will be done in a day</p> <p>On answering Dr.Rejis question President said that we will try to include as many specialities as suitable for the program. Our members will be given priority for presentations and members from other specialities will be invited only for panel discussion.</p>	<p><b><u>Resolution 3</u></b></p> <p>EC has resolved to approve the WHC academic program .</p> <p><b><i>Future course of Action</i></b></p> <p>The committee has been permitted to formalize the program .Proposed by Dr.Virag Bhatia and seconded by Dr.Padma priya</p>

The President adjourned the EOGM meeting officially and thanked all for their participation and valuable inputs.