Secretary General report (2019-21) for GBM 25/12/2021 on Zoom – Chhitij Srivastava

Matters arising from last GBM 09/11/2019

1. Decision to collect Rs 500 per registration for journal – it was later decided that IACAM can fund it separately based on the needs of the journal
2. Dr. Konar had discussed at last GBM about some difficulty in getting money from the pharmaceuticals because of which he is not able to close the accounts of IACAMCON 2017. This was subsequently sorted and balance amount was transferred to IACAM
3. Dr. Kishor Gujar proposed to form all the committees early on so that work can be done. This is still a work in progress

My tenure as Secretary General IACAM from 10/11/19 lasted a little more than 2 years. It’s been a great learning curve for me. Goes well with the theme of the conference.....opportunities and challenges! The biggest challenge of course has been COVID in this period. While it has restricted face-to-face meetings and conferences, it has shown us the benefits of using online platform very creatively. Consequently we have had frequent EC meetings in the last 2 years on zoom, and implemented lots of new ideas to come from these brain storming meetings. I will mention a few important events from my tenure here:

1) Membership related - Last 2 years saw a total of 34 new LF and 21 new LM despite the limitations that COVID imposed on all of us. IACAM currently has around 750 members (LF 411 & LM 336). Membership fee was increased on 1st Jan 2020 from 2500 and 4000 for LM and LF to 5000 and 8000 respectively.
2) Online Mid term CME at Imphal 7th & 8th November 2020. While originally planned to be held at Imphal, COVID forced it into an online event. It was a grand success with around 700 registrations. My congratulations to Dr Lenin and his entire team. It was decided to come out with a position statement from this CME focusing on screen time in children and adolescents.
3) Position statement from CME - A special taskforce was created presided by Dr Seshadri. Team – Drs Nitin Gupta, Rachna Bhargava, Suravi Patra, Nidhi Chauhan, Chhitij Srivastava & Kishor Gujar. The position statement was published in JIACAM in April 2021 “Exposure to Smartphone and Screen media in Children and Adolescents and COVID-19 pandemic”. Do go through as it’s a useful document.
4) IACAM in collaboration with IPS child psychiatry subcommittee and NIMHANS published an ebook on “COVID 19 AND CHILDREN - MISSION ‘SCHOOL AGAIN’ in July 2021. It focused on the IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN and STRATEGY FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS
5) IACAM academy – IACAM started an online 1 year course in child psychiatry. A brainchild of Dr Savita Malhotra Madam, it has been a huge success. The huge demand forced us to start a 2nd batch of the course
soon after the first one started. The course has been divided into four modules with fortnightly lectures. Do check out our website https://www.iacamacademy.org.in for more details. I congratulate Dr Savita Malhotra, Dr Nitin Gupta (Course co-ordinator), Dr Nidhi Chauhan and Dr Darpan Kaur (Assistant course co-ordinators) and the entire team for this initiative. The academy will have a new bank account soon.

6) Journal - IACAM publishes a quarterly Journal known as JIACAM, which is indexed with SCOPUS, EMBASE & UGC Care. Dr Naresh Nebhinani and his team have done an excellent job in making it a high quality journal. The journal committee is in the process of moving over from an online journal to a print one. This is going to materialize early in the new year. The team deserve a lot of appreciation for their efforts. We must also thank Dr. Beena Johnson for her continuous, unconditional help and support in the publication of journal. She has done this out of her love and dedication for IACAM while using her own resources. We salute her selfless services to IACAM.

7) Election committee – The committee consisting of Dr. Manju Mohanty Chairperson, Dr. Nitin Gupta member and Dr. Amit Arya Member successfully completed the process of election. My congratulations to them. We will hear about the results of the election process soon.

8) Changes to website – This is a brainchild of Dr KK Mishra whose idea was to introduce a photodirectory. We have subsequently developed a new functionality in our childindia.org website that allows members to personalize their details. It allows members to login to their personal page and edit/update personal details including adding their photograph. Members can also choose to display or hide specific details on the website. This may be relevant as the website is hosted on a public domain. Emails have been sent out explaining the process. However, till date less than 20 members have used this to update their details. I would like to request all the members to kindly use this functionality. There is also a helpline number (Call/WhatsApp on +91 8400999780) if you face any problems.

9) Social media – We now have some social media presence with dedicated facebook and twitter accounts. Some public awareness work was done using this platform including publishing an Autism awareness document was prepared jointly by Dr Shivangi Mehta and I.

10) IACAPAP related – Dr Savita Malhotra and Dr Debashish Konar have been nominated to apply for post of Vice President IACAPAP. 6 applications from IACAM have been supported for IACAPAP membership. We made a strong bid to hold the IACAPAP conference in 2026 but unfortunately it was not accepted. We hope this will change in the new term with new members infusing new ideas.

11) Ongoing work  
  a. Dr Kishor Gujar has proposed a survey by IACAM on emotional issues, coping and adaptation in children, adolescent and caretakers through online questioners. Dr Amit Arya to update  
  b. Dr Savita Malhotra has suggested that IACAM should send a letter to ministry for advocating appointment of counselor/special educator in every school.
c. Dr Nishant proposed to conduct a school based screening of SLD at large scale, preferably pan India at multiple sites. Dr Amit Arya informed that IPS SLD task force is already planning a large scale SLD screening and IACAM can associate with that.
d. Bombay high court judgement on POCSO: There was a judgment that undermined sexual assault towards a minor as direct skin to skin contact wasn’t proved. However, later supreme court took corrective measures. In Feb 2021 EC meeting, it was decided that in future IACAM as a body must be quick and effective in taking a stand if something like that happened. For future such incidents, Life president, President, Vice president, Secretary must discuss as a group and our position should be expressed promptly. We should have min 2-3 members in the group to formulate a response in detail, taking into consideration, relevant laws and human rights. It should be put on site in name of President.

Subcommittes - We have 2 new sub committees

1. School Mental Health – A School Mental Health (SMH) committee was formed and is up and running with Dr. Henal Sah as the chair. The committee includes Dr Nishant Goyal (convenor), Drs Ashok MV, Abir Mukherjee and Ruchita Shah (core members).
2. SLD task force – A special taskforce on Specific Learning Disability (SLD) was also created with Prof. Adarsh Kohli as Chair.
3. Some subcommittee like Journal one are well resourced and very well functioning. Honorary Editor : Naresh Nebhinani. Associate Editor : Suravi Patra, Jitender Aneja, Navratan Suthar, Pooja Patnaik Kuppili. Assistant Editor : Swati Choudhary, Kartik Singhai. Chief Advisor: Savita Malhotra
4. Election committee has stayed the same from last time – Dr Manju Mohanty as chairman with Dr Nitin Gupta & Dr Amit Arya
5. However lots of subcommittees have only single members
   a. Ethics committee – Dr Pratap Sharan
   b. Programme Committee : - Dr. Vivek Agarwal as chairman.
   c. Constitution committee - Dr. Prabhat Sitholey as Chairman.
6. Awards subcommittee has no formal composition but Dr Konar has filled in this gap on this occasion.

I am grateful to Dr. Savita Malhotra, Life President, Dr. Kishor Gujar, President, Dr. Debashish Konar, Vice President, Dr. Kshirod Mishra Treasurer and council members for their kind cooperation and suggestions from time to time in running the secretariat. We were able to take important and timely decisions because of the help of technology and online availability of all the EC members. I am also thankful to all the members of the association for giving me this opportunity to serve the association and supporting me in my work.

Dr Chhitij Srivastava
Secretary General IACAM