



Indian Association of Preventive & Social Medicine

Estd. 1974

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Dr. Poonam R Naik

Dr. Hemagiri K

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Dr. Sairu Philip

Dr. GM Muhammad

Ref-IAPSM/HQ/051

Date- 09/09/2026

Minutes of Meeting

IAPSM Governing Council Meeting- 23rd June 2026 at AFMC Pune

The Mid Term Governing Council Meeting of IAPSM was held on 23rd June 2026 at AFMC Pune. The meeting was chaired by Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Atul Kotwal - President IAPSM

The meeting was attended by -

1. Dr. Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj (Immediate Past President)
2. Dr. Pradeep Kumar (President Elect)
3. Dr. Manish Kumar Singh (Secretary General)
4. Dr. Medhavi Aggarwal (Treasurer)
5. Dr. Poonam R Naik (GC Member- South Zone 1)
6. Dr. Hemagiri K (GC Member South Zone 1)
7. Dr. Sairu Philip (GC Member South Zone 2)
8. Dr. GM Muhammad (GC Member South Zone 2)
9. Dr. Shriram Vitthal Gosavi (GC Member Central Zone)
10. Dr. Hitesh Kumar M Shah (GC Member West Zone)
11. Dr. Krupal. J. Joshi (GC Member West Zone)
12. Dr. Rashmi Agarwalla (GC Member- North East Zone)
13. Dr. Shamima Yasmin (GC Member- East Zone)
14. Dr. Santosh Kumar Nirala (GC Member- North Central Zone)
15. Dr. Sarit Sharma (GC Member -North Zone)
16. Dr. Anmol Gupta (GC member North Zone)
17. Dr. Hemangini K. Shah (GC Member)

Following members could not attend the meeting

1. Dr. Pankaj Bhardwaj- Chief Editor- IJCM
2. Dr. Darshan Mahyavanshi - Vice President
3. Dr. B Thirumala Rao- Joint Secretary
4. Dr. Sandip Kumar (GC Member - North Central Zone)
5. Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh (GC Member - East Zone)
6. Dr. Priya Yogesh Kulkarni (GC Member - Central Zone)
7. Dr. Pankaj Prasad (GC Member - South Central Zone)

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Following agenda points were deliberated upon:

Agenda 1: Welcome address by President IAPSM

Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Atul Kotwal, President IAPSM extended a warm welcome to all Governing Council members. He appreciated the efforts carried out during the previous tenure and committed to continue the same momentum forward. He appreciated the wonderful hospitality extended and meticulous arrangements done by the Department of Community Medicine, AFMC, Pune under the able leadership of Brigadier Dr. V.S. Grewal. The entire Governing Council appreciated the efforts of Department of Community Medicine, AFMC, Pune. President - Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Atul Kotwal asked Dr Manish Kumar Singh to initiate deliberations on Agenda of the meeting

Agenda 2: Update on Preparations of 7th IAPSM Young Leaders National Conclave (YLNC) 2026

Dr Manish, thanked Brigadier Dr.V.S. Grewal, Col (Dr) Yadu Veer Singh and the Department of community medicine, AFMC, Pune for the wonderful arrangements. He invited Col (Dr) Yadu Veer to update on preparations for the 7th IAPSM Young Leaders National Conclave (YLNC) 2026.

Col. (Dr) Yadu Veer presented a comprehensive progress report covering institutional strengths, scientific programme, logistics and financial planning. The Governing Council was briefed on AFMC's legacy, academic achievements and the Department's contributions to teaching, research, publications and national collaborations. It was briefed that administrative approval has been obtained, venue and dates have been finalised for 19 Nov 2026-Pre-conclave workshops and 20-21 November 2026 for the main conclave, with a range of workshops and scientific sessions.

The Governing Council was informed that website development and other logistical preparations are underway. The registration tariff was discussed and It was decided to initiate registration for the conclave at earliest. The Governing Council approved in principle ₹1,00,000 as refundable seed money and asked the Organizing Committee to submit a budget incorporating GST. It was decided to restrict scientific presentations to IAPSM members. There was deliberation on group registrations, reviewing co-delegate fees and finalizing the registration refund policy. The Governing Council unanimously expressed satisfaction on the preparations for the Young Leaders Conclave.

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Agenda 3: Update on Preparations of IAPSMCON 2027

The organizing committee IAPSMCON 2027 joined online to present on updates regarding preparations for IAPSMCON 2027. Prof. (Dr.) Sumitra Patnaik, Organising Chairperson briefed regarding preparations of the conference. She briefed that process for seeking sponsorship has been initiated and conference registration has commenced. Call for pre-conference workshop is finalized and will be shared shortly. Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Atul Kotwal urged all GC members to actively participate and support in the registrations from their respective zones. He appreciated the efforts of the organising team. It was decided to have a mid-term visit to Bhubaneswar by President and Secretary to review further preparations of the conference.

Agenda 4: Update on Developments since GC Meeting Held on 14th May 2026

The Secretary General briefed regarding updates on activities undertaken since the previous online GC meeting. He briefed that the membership campaign took off very well, but was interrupted with the online membership information system being out of order and non-functional for a long period.

He updated on the current membership status and urged all members for active efforts to strengthen the membership campaign. A total of 160 new members were added in the tenure since 1st April 2026. The current membership stands at 10,290.

He briefed on the successful collaboration with RCTC, PGIMER, Chandigarh for World No Tobacco Day 2026. An Innovation Challenge competition, T Shirt painting, short video/reel advocacy competition, Selfie Competition and poster/infographic competition was organised jointly.

Agenda 5: Approval of Minutes of GC Meeting Held on 14 May 2026

The minutes of the GC Meeting held on 14 May 2026 were presented before the Governing Council. After discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved

Agenda 6: Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Young Leaders Conclave (YLC) 2028 and IAPSMCON 2029.

Dr. Shamima Yasmin, informed the Governing Council about concerns raised by the West Bengal Chapter regarding the lack of transparency and practicality of the existing hand-raising voting process to decide on conference venue. The Governing Council agreed for a transparent, fair and user-friendly voting mechanism to be worked out for future.

There was elaborate discussion on using paper ballot and QR code-based electronic voting options. It was further entrusted on Secretary General to work out on the details of modality of voting.

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Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Atul Kotwal proposed that venue promotional videos be pre-screened and only approved videos be shown during the GBM, with bidding medical colleges allowed three-minute presentations. It was unanimously decided to invite EOIs for hosting YLC 2028 and IAPSMCON 2029 by 1st week of September.

Agenda 7: Formation of Oration and Fellowship Committee and deadlines for submissions

The Governing Council proposed the name of Prof. (Dr.) Anil Purty, Ex -President, IAPSM as Chairperson for the Oration and Fellowship Committee. The Council recommended that henceforth, only scanned copy of Fellowship and Oration application be received. The scanned application form with original signatures of proposer and seconder and supporting documents be sent to Secretary General IAPSM within the announced timeline.

Physical copy of Fellowship / Oration application forms of yester years before 2025-26 be destroyed.

Agenda 8: Formation of the Awards Committee and deadlines for submissions and discussions on the SOP

The Governing Council discussed constituting a committee for various Association awards to ensure a transparent, objective and standardized selection process with defined roles and evaluation criteria. Dr. Zile Singh was proposed as Chairperson for the Committee.

It was further discussed that that some deserving senior members, if unable to attend conferences or award ceremony for Life Time Achievement Award may be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to valid reasons approved by the awards committee.

Agenda 9: Committee for President Appreciation Award

A committee with President as chairperson and other committee members nominated by the President to be formed to scrutinize applications received for President Appreciation Award.

Agenda 10: Committee for Faculty and Postgraduate Research Grants

The Governing Council discussed the constitution of a dedicated committee to oversee the Faculty and Postgraduate (PG) Research Grant initiative, with the objective of promoting high-quality research activities and encouraging academic excellence among faculty members and postgraduate students across the country.

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Members acknowledged that the research grant initiative has received an encouraging response and has emerged as an important platform for fostering a research culture within the Association. It was particularly noted that the research grant activity was widely appreciated by postgraduate students, who found it beneficial in supporting innovative research ideas, enhancing their research skills, and facilitating scholarly contributions to the field of Community Medicine.

It was proposed that Dr. Pradeep Deshmukh be requested to serve as the Chairperson of the Faculty and PG Research Grant Committee, considering his experience and expertise in research and academic activities. In the event of his unavailability, Dr. Bhavesh Modi may be considered for the position.

The Council appreciated the positive feedback received from postgraduate students and agreed that sustained efforts should be made to expand and strengthen the initiative in the coming years, thereby promoting a vibrant research ecosystem within the Association. Members also highlighted the importance of providing continued support and mentorship to young researchers and postgraduate students to encourage evidence-based public health research.

Agenda 11: Nomination of Election Chairperson for IAPSM GC and Editorial Board Elections 2027. Discussion SOP for elections

The Governing Council deliberated on the election procedures for the forthcoming Governing Council and Editorial Board Elections for 2027-28. It was decided that there should be a minimum canvassing period of 7 days followed by voting for a period of five days. The election committee to bring out detail guidelines and facilitate the elections. The Council further emphasized that the Election Chairperson should not be a serving Governing Council member, thereby ensuring independence, neutrality and credibility throughout the election process.

It was also discussed that State chapters to host elections, to follow the national IAPSM guidelines while retaining reasonable operational flexibility for the smooth conduct of elections at the local level.

Dr. JV Singh was proposed as the Election Chairperson for the 2027 elections. The GC also proposed the name of Prof (Dr.) Najam Khaliq to facilitate the election process.

Agenda 12: Discussion on Constitution Updation & Constitution Draft document-
The composite constitution draft document incorporating all proposed amendments and additions over the years prepared by the committee headed by Maj. Gen Dr. Atul Kotwal was presented before the Governing Council.

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In the interest of time, it was decided that the draft document, along with a separate document quoting the specific meeting minutes be shared with all GC members for review and comments within a stipulated time frame. The final revised draft shall be circulated to members for review and suggestions. The inputs to be compiled and final draft be put before GB for approval

Agenda 13: Discussion on Royalty of IAPSM Textbook

The Governing Council discussed the royalty-related matters pertaining to the IAPSM Textbook. Details regarding royalty and related financial aspects were presented before the Council for consideration. The request by Dr AM Kadri, Ex President IAPSM regarding correcting the recording of minutes of IAPSM General Body Meeting, 28 Feb-2026, Namo Medical Education & Research Institute, Silvassa, UT- Dadar Nagar Haveli-Daman & Diu was discussed. It was decided that there was no need of any correction in the minutes.

It was discussed that there was no previous documentation or SOP with regard to sharing of royalty received from the publisher as honorarium. Further, it was also discussed that initiatives that generate commercial or financial benefit for IAPSM may be considered for the provision of honorarium for those who contributed towards the initiative in future.

The President recommended that a dedicated committee should be constituted to examine all issues related to royalty, authorship, honorarium (amount, eligibility), and future payment mechanisms. It was further suggested that clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) should be developed for IAPSM Textbooks. After deliberation, it was decided that the Chairperson of the committee shall be finalized later.

The Secretary General emphasized that any process related to honorarium or royalty must ensure complete transparency and avoid any conflict of interest

Agenda 14: Updates on IJCM and Financial Statement

Dr Pankaj Bhardwaj, Chief Editor -IJCM had expressed his inability to attend the meeting. He was requested to nominate a representative for the meeting. However, no representative was available to present the report before the Governing Council. The Council expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of representation and the delay in communication regarding the report.

Members observed that regular and timely reporting is essential for effective review, transparency, and accountability, particularly for matters related to the official journal and its financial status. It was decided that a formal communication shall be issued to the concerned authorities regarding the absence of representation and non-presentation of the report. The Governing Council further resolved that, in future meetings, updates related to IJCM and its financial statement must be submitted and presented in a timely manner to enable proper discussion, review, and decision-making.

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Agenda 15: Regarding Website and Member Information System (MIS)

The Governing Council reviewed the status of the IAPSM website and Member Information System (MIS). It was brought to the notice of the GC that the Member Information System was non- functional for a considerable period in recent times. This has severely impacted the new membership drive. As discussed in the previous meeting two Lucknow based vendor's were shortlisted, of which one MS FlairUP was found to be suitable by a team constituted to check for technical details.

In this regard, a presentation was done by the representative from FlairUP company on AWS-based platform with security, improved backups, a searchable membership database, integration of election SOPs, website and dedicated technical support at IAPSM headquarters. The Governing council was of the view that a provider which is easily accessible would be the best for better coordination with the IAPSM Headquarter

To ensure transparency and competitiveness, an additional RFP with vendor bids and quotations was suggested. It was also decided that a clear exit policy should be there in the agreement.

Agenda 16: IAPSM YouTube Channel

The Governing Council was informed that the official IAPSM YouTube channel has been blocked by You Tube. Dr. Parag Chavda, managing the channel earlier had sent a mail in this regard. However, there was no response. This has resulted in loss of all content on the channel.

The Council emphasized maintaining secure backups through the official website and other digital platforms and decided that, if recovery is unsuccessful, a new YouTube account should be created for official activities. Dr. Shamima Yasmin also proposed developing a dedicated IAPSM mobile application for member communication, academic content and event updates. The President recommended exploring professional digital platforms such as LinkedIn Premium and other paid social media and digital tools to enhance the Association's outreach, visibility and professional presence.

Agenda 17: Fact Finding Committee Report on IJCH

The Governing Council discussed the report of the Fact Finding Committee constituted in relation to matters concerning IJCH. Dr. Manish Kumar Singh briefed that with lot of efforts, the current editorial board could get articles for the next issue, essential to maintain continuity of the journal, a new submission portal was opened and a new IJCH bank account could be opened and an amount of approximately ₹4.5 lakh in name of IJCH could be safely deposited.

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There was absolutely no cooperation from Dr Pradeep Agarwal in handing over the journal smoothly. The Council emphasized the need to uphold institutional integrity, accountability and transparency in all journal-related activities. Members recommended ensuring active and accountable participation of Editorial Board members.

GC also recommended suitable action must be taken against individuals found responsible and actions to prevent future recurrence. Further inputs were invited from GC members till 30th June 2026, following which the President was authorised to take appropriate action.

Agenda 18: Any Other Issue with Permission of the Chair

Following additional matters were discussed with the permission of the Chair.

1. Regarding Use of National PAN Card : It was clarified that State Chapters shall not use the National IAPSM PAN card for their respective financial or administrative activities. State Chapters should register themselves under society act, get their own PAN card for their chapter-level financial operations.

2. World Breastfeeding Week Joint Statement

The President informed the Governing Council that a joint statement to reaffirm shared commitment of professional associations for optimal breastfeeding practices across India is being drafted. IAPSM is one of the partners. The draft statement will be shared with members and inputs and comments are invited till 30th June 2026.

3. Travel Allowance for GC Meetings

Dr. Medhavi Agarwal proposed the considering the recent increase in air fare the ceiling for travel allowance for members attending Governing Council meeting may be increased. After discussion, the President suggested that the travel allowance cap may be increased to ₹25,000/- this time.

4. IAPSM Participation in Nasik Kumbh

Dr. Shriram Vitthal Gosavi proposed that IAPSM should participate in the forthcoming Nasik Kumbh. He was asked to prepare a detailed proposal for the same, outlining the scope, objectives, operational framework, and possible public health activities.

5. News Letter & Digital Media Cell - The Secretary General requested GC members to get one nodal person nominated from the states in their respective zones. The nominated nodal person shall be responsible for timely reporting of activities, sharing updates.

6. Regarding overlap of State Conferences - Post discussion, it was decided that State Chapters should communicate their conference dates to the National Office in advance, so that conference overlap can be avoided.

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Agenda 19: Vote of Thanks

The Governing Council Meeting concluded after comprehensive deliberations on all agenda items. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Manish Kumar Singh, Secretary General, IAPSM, who expressed sincere gratitude to the President, Governing Council members, and the Department of Community Medicine, Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), for their valuable contributions and support. He appreciated the active participation, constructive deliberations and insightful suggestions of all members, which contributed to the effective conduct of the meeting and the continued strengthening of the Association.

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