

Proposal to set up IPS Academy for Education and Research

Background:

During 75th AGBM at Bhubaneswar the President proposed formation of IPS Academy of Education & Research and requested AGBM to authorise the Executive Council for creating a functional structure and working guidelines. There was silent approval to this idea, and the EC approved the structure and working guidelines. But in an online Executive Council meeting held on 25th August 2023 some EC members questioned AGB approval because the issue of IPS Academy was not on the agenda and it was suggested that the proposal should be kept on the agenda and AGB approval should be taken before executing it. Some members raised the issue of possible financial irregularity without knowing that all the nominations are honorary and the Hony Treasurer of IPS will be treasurer of Academy also and all the transactions will be through IPS accounts only.

Some unpleasant comments led to resignation of the nominated Director Prof Ajit Avasthi, who is not only highly respected across the country but also the brain behind many good works of IPS including Research and Training foundation and Low cost multicentric studies. He has contributed remarkably to developing serial CPGs as well. Due to this unfortunate development the centralised supervision of sections ceased but the novel and noble idea and EC approved structure is in place and IPS Academy of Education and Research is on the Agenda for AGB approval.

IPS Hony General Secretary Office is grateful to Dr Vikas Menon, Dr Sandeep Grover and Dr Alka Subramaniyam for drafting the structure and working guidelines.

Salient Features:

1. It has been conceptualised as a continuous body with two arms _ Governing and Academic
2. The Governing Body will be headed by the President and the Academic body by the Director.
3. It will have 4 sections – Education, Research. International Research Collaboration and Publication.
4. Academy will run certificate courses, facilitate research by members, engage in international research collaboration and plan, execute, and manage IPS publications.
5. Source of Income – Sponsorship, Interest on Seed money from IPS, earning from royalty on IPS Publications, Fees Collected for certificate courses.
6. All transactions will be done through one of the IPS bank accounts.
7. Hony Treasurer of IPS will be treasurer of IPS Academy

This proposal is based partly on the document prepared and submitted by Prof. Ajit Avasthi which was discussed and approved in Kochi AGBM 2012, but partially executed. The proposal and structure of the foundation was discussed again in Kolkata during WPARC 2023 on 15.04.2023.

Rationale of the IPS Academy for Education and Research

Traditionally, the activities of Indian Psychiatric Society were limited to holding Annual Conferences and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programmes at national, zonal, state and local levels. Besides this, the activities of the society involved publishing the Journal (Indian Journal of Psychiatry).

More recently, the activities of the Indian Psychiatric Society have expanded. In year 2003, a task force for formulating clinical practice guidelines (CPG) for Psychiatrists in India was set up. Over the past two decades, the Society has published many volumes of CPG. In 2009, the Society formed a publication committee with intent to publish books of common interest to its membership and to keep them updated about the scientific knowledge and advancements in the speciality of Psychiatry. Twelve books have already been published and the activity is continuing. The society has also enhanced its participation in policy issues and has put across its recommendation to the government at different levels in relation to legal issues involved in attempted suicide, proposed amendments to Mental Health Act, rights of the LGBTQIA+ people, upgrading course curriculum in psychiatry at undergraduate medical training, and recommendations for maintaining minimum standards of postgraduate psychiatric training in India, to name a few.

However, among the major areas of concern is the lack of research on many clinical areas from our country and poor knowledge and attitude in the community towards mental illness and persons with mental illness. Further, there are few opportunities for the members of Indian Psychiatric Society to upskill themselves in niche areas, either during or after their postgraduate training. Keeping these gaps in mind, an academy to be known as “**Indian Psychiatric Society Academy for Education and Research**” is proposed.

Objectives of the IPS ACADEMY for Education and Research

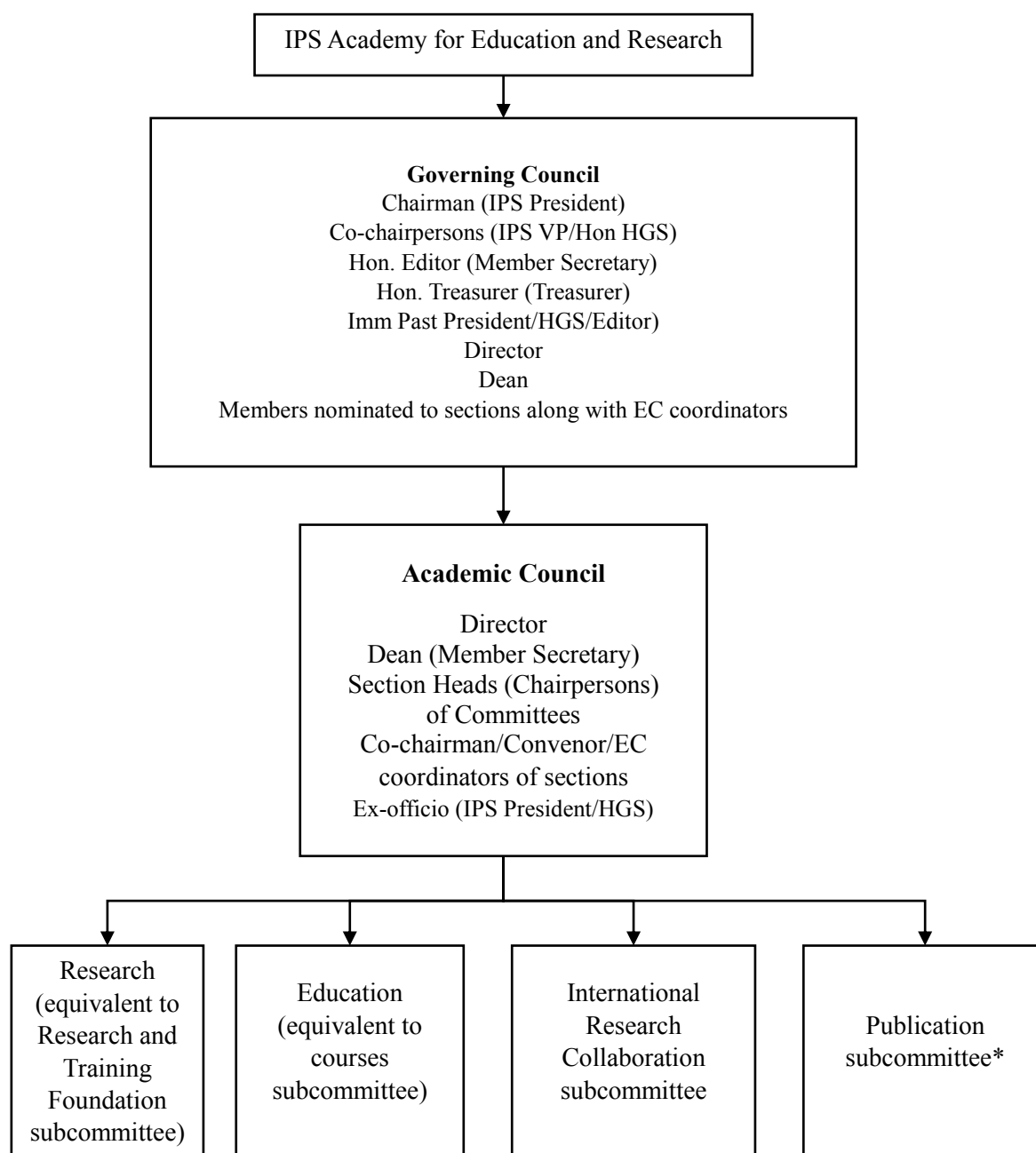
1. Enhance educational and research capacities and opportunities to improve the quality of psychiatric care.
2. Conduct clinical and health service-related research to bridge the gap between research and practice.
3. Foster careers in psychiatric research, focusing on all levels of career development, from undergraduate level onwards
4. Provide fellowship and visiting scholarship opportunities in a range of areas related to psychiatric research, training, and practice to the interested members.
5. Advance public understanding of mental illnesses and to increase access to care.
6. Publications of interest for the membership and the general public. ‘
7. To start certified educational and training programmes for the members to provide cutting edge knowledge in niche areas.
8. To initiate and collaborate in the development of educational and training programmes in the field of mental health.

Powers and Functions of the Academy

To carry out the above objectives and for the management of properties of the Academy, the Academy shall have the following powers:

- i. to establish courses of study and research and to provide instruction in such branches of study as the Academy deems appropriate for the advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge in such branches;
- ii. to confer degrees and to grant diplomas and /or certificates to persons who have satisfactorily completed the approved courses of study and/or research as may be prescribed and shall have passed the prescribed examinations;
- iii. to execute and award vistorships, fellowships, exhibits, prizes and medals;
- iv. to appoint and hire services or discharge/terminate the services of the personnel and to pay them in return for the services rendered to the society, salaries, wages, gratuities, provident fund and other allowances of remunerations in accordance with the rules and regulations for the Academy;
- v. to create administrative, technical, academic, ministerial and other posts under the society and to make appointments thereto in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Academy;
- vi. to execute offers and grant prizes, awards, scholarships, travel grants and scholarships, research grants and stipends in furtherance of the objects of the Academy;
- vii. to accept grants of money, securities and properties of any kind on such terms as may be expedient;
- viii. to invest and deal with funds and money of the Academy;
- ix. to raise from banks or any other financier or public or private undertakings, loans and advances with or without securities including pledge and hypothecation of the properties and assets of the Academy;
- x. to issue appeals and apply for money and funds in the furtherance of the objects of the Society and to raise or collect funds by gifts, donations, subscriptions or otherwise of cash and securities and any property either movable or immovable and to grant such rights and privileges to the donors, subscribers and other benefactors as the Academy may consider fit and proper;
- xi. to acquire and hold by gift, purchase, exchange, lease, hire or otherwise howsoever any property movable or immovable which may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the Academy and to build, construct, improve, alter, demolish and repair such buildings, works and constructions as may be necessary for carrying out the objects of the Academy;
- xii. to sell, mortgage, lease, exchange and otherwise transfer or dispose of all or any property, movable or immovable of the Academy for the furtherance of the objects or any of them;
- xiii. to accept and undertake the management of any endowment of trust fund or donation to further the objects of the society.

Structure of the Governing Council of the IPS ACADEMY for Education and Research



*Advisor of this committee will be part of the Academic Arm for this year (2023-24) alone.

The management of the affairs of the Academy is entrusted by the regulations of the society to the Governing Council whose names, designations and addresses are given below:

- Chairman will be the President of IPS
- Co-chairpersons will be Vice president/Hon. Gen Secretary of IPS
- Member-Secretary will be the Hon. Editor
- Treasurer will be Hon. Treasurer
- Other members - Immediate Past President/Immediate Past HGS/Immediate Past Editor

- Director and Dean of ACADEMY will be appointed by EC nomination for two years. After two years, Dean will become Director. So, only Dean needs to be appointed once in two years. The qualifications for Director and Dean post will include academic eminence in teaching and research.
- There will be four sections under the academy - Education and Training, Research, International Research Collaboration, Publication. EC will nominate Chair, Co-chair, Convener and an EC Co ordinator for each section.
- There shall be at least one meeting of the Governing Council in a year. At least four members (04) will be necessary to have quorum.

Power and Functions of the Governing Council

- a) To approve the budget, annual plans and five-year plans of the academy.
- b) To review annual reports of the functioning of the Academy.
- c) To lay down overall policy directions, objectives and goals. It shall have no executive powers.
- d) To consider and adopt the audited accounts.
- e) To review the financial status and to seek and accept funds and other assistance from non-government sources-national and international for development of the Academy
- f) To review and collaborations with other Academies (national/international) and facilitate their implementation.
- g) To function as an Appellate Authority in respect of grievances of faculty
- h) To manage and administer the revenues and properties of the Academy and to conduct all administrative affairs of the Academy not otherwise specifically provided for;
- i) To approve proposals made by Academic Council from time to time regarding the creation of teaching and academic posts
- j) To provide for appointment of Visiting Fellows and Visiting Professors, Emeritus Professors and Honorary Faculty;
- k) To create research staff on the pattern of ICMR on the recommendations of Academic Council;
- l) To grant leave of absence to the Director or any other officer of the Academy and to make necessary arrangements for carrying on the functions of the officers proceeding on leave during their absence;
- m) To regulate and enforce discipline among the employees of the Academy and to take appropriate disciplinary action, wherever necessary;
- n) To manage and regulate the finances, accounts, investments, property and all other administrative affairs of the Academy and for that purpose to appoint such agent or agents as it may deem fit;
- o) To select an emblem and to have a common seal for the Academy and to provide for the custody and use of such seal;
- p) To institute Academy fellowships, including travelling fellowships, scholarships, studentships, medals and prizes in accordance with the bye-laws to be framed for the purpose;
- q) To demand and receive payment of fees and other charges from students and trainees;
- r) To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year to undertake audit of the funds of the Academy;
- s) To open account or accounts of the Academy with any one or more scheduled banks and to lay down the procedure for operating the same;
- t) To issue appeals for funds for carrying out the objects of the Academy and consistent with the provisions of the objects clause of the Academy, to receive grants, donations, contributions, gifts, prizes, scholarships, fees and other moneys, to give grants and donations, to award prizes, scholarships etc;

- u) To advise the Indian Psychiatric Society on matters regarding acquisition, management and disposal of any immovable property on behalf of the Academy;
- v) To invest the funds of the Academy or money entrusted to the Academy or upon such securities and in such manner as it may deem fit and from time to time transpose any investment
- w) To appoint, in order to execute an instrument or transact any business of the Academy, any person as attorney of the Academy with such powers as it may deem fit;
- x) To deposit all moneys credited to the fund in scheduled banks or to invest them in consultation with the relevant committees;
- y) To maintain a fund for receiving all money which shall be credited to a bank account;
- z) To maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare annual statements of accounts including the Balance Sheet for every previous financial year, in such form as may be prescribed by the Regulations/Bye-laws

Powers and Functions of the Academic Council

The Academic Council shall be the principal academic body of the Academy and shall, in addition to all other powers and duties vested in it, have the following powers and duties, viz.,

- a) To exercise general supervision over the academic work of the Academy and to give directions regarding methods of instructions, evaluation or research or improvements in academic standards.
- b) To promote research within the Academy, review reports on such researches from time to time.
- c) To consider matters of academic interest either on its own initiative or at the instance of the Governing Council and to take proper action thereon.
- d) To make arrangements for the conduct of examinations in conformity with bye-laws.
- e) To maintain proper standards of the examination.
- f) To recognise diplomas and degrees of Universities and other Institutions and to determine equivalence with the diplomas and degrees of the Academy.
- g) To prescribe course of study leading to degrees and diplomas of the Academy.
- h) To appoint sub-committees to advise on such specific matters as may be referred to it by the Governing Council.
- i) To consider the recommendations of sub-committees and to take such action (including making of recommendations to the Governing Council) as the circumstances of each case may require.
- j) To take periodical review of the activities of the Departments/centres and to take appropriate action (including making recommendations to the Governing Council) with a view to maintaining and improving the standards of instruction.
- k) To oversee conduct of examination or tests for admission to the courses taught in the Academy, to oversee conduct examinations for Degrees and Diplomas and to declare the results of such examinations and tests and to confer grant or academic titles and distinctions;
- l) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be conferred or imposed upon it by the rules and bye-laws.

Sections or operational arms of the IPS ACADEMY for Education and Research

- Research (equivalent to Research and Training Foundation) – to provide travel fellowships and research fellowships
- Education (equivalent to Super specialty certificate courses) – to initiate certified educational and training programmes for the members in niche areas

- International Research Collaboration – to partner with organizations such as the World Psychiatric Association for research capacity building and support careers in psychiatric research
- Publication – to publish themed books aimed at promoting local evidence-informed practice

The IPS ACADEMY for Education and Research will function as a semi-autonomous body whose activities will continue in perpetuity. It will have an advisory role for the 4 committees above.

It was suggested that this initiative and its structure, and functioning will be published in IJP so that there is a permanent record of the intended plan.

Finances and functioning of the IPS ACADEMY for Education and Research

- Separate office in IPS Headquarters
- Finances of the Indian Psychiatric Society: Research and Education Foundation will be maintained as a part of the IPS account only.
- Funding sources – to approach corporates/NGO/ research funding agencies/pharma
- Other sources of funding – Royalty from all IPS Publications/Course fees collected for all IPS Short Courses. A corpus fund will be created.
- Besides these, there are many other programmes of IPS organized throughout the year including at Zonal/State Level and their organizers can also be motivated to donate some surplus funds to the Foundation.
- The Foundation can receive donations from individual member of the Society, other professional bodies and research organizations, governmental bodies, NGOs and members of general public, and organizing committees of various conferences/meetings organized under the aegis of Indian Psychiatric Society. The Foundation can receive funds from Indian Psychiatric Society.
- **Indian Psychiatric Society** will provide fund of **Rs. 20,00,000.00** (Rupees Twenty Lakhs only) as **seed money**.
- The funded amount of **Rs. 20,00,000.00** (Rupees Twenty Lakhs only) will be kept in Bank as **Term Deposit** for a maximum period subject to maximum interest yield. Assuming an interest rate of 7.0%, annually there will be around **Rs.1,40,000.00** (Rupees one lakh forty thousand only) as the working capital. In future, Indian Psychiatric Society: Research and Education Foundation should set a target to increase its funds.

Income and property to be applied for the objectives only

- The income and property of the Academy, however, derived shall be applied towards the promotion of the objects thereof as set forth in this Memorandum of Association

Income and property not to be paid or transferred by way of profit

- No portion of the income and property of the Academy shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit, to the persons, who at any time, or have been members of the Academy or to any of them, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith or remuneration to any members thereof or

other persons in return for any service rendered to the Academy or for travelling, halting and other similar charges.

Research Evaluation and Ethics Committees

A research Evaluation Committee (REC) will be formed to scrutinize the applications for Research proposals. This may be a three-member team from the Governing Committee of Research and Education Foundation or the Committee may co-opt any Fellow Member/s of IPS to REC. The Governing Committee will also be responsible for establishing an independent Ethics Committee.

Any reports/findings of the work related to the Foundation will be the property of Indian Psychiatric Society. Such reports/findings may be published in the Indian Journal of Psychiatry or elsewhere as decided by the Foundation.
