

INDIAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
Kailas Darshan, Kennedy Bridge, Mumbai-400007

Minutes of the meeting of the IAP COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION (IAPCOI) of Indian Academy of Pediatrics held on 21st December 2012 at Airport City Park Hotel, Delhi from 10.00 am onwards.

The following IAP members were present at the meeting:

Chairperson - Dr Rohit C Agrawal
Convener - Dr Vipin M Vashishtha
Member – Dr Amarjeet Chitkara
Member – Dr Monjori Mitra
Member – Dr S Sanjay
Adviser - Dr Naveen Thacker
Adviser - Dr A Parthasarathy
Ex-Officio - Dr Panna Choudhury
Ex-Officio - Dr Vijay N Yewale
Rapporteur: Dr. Pravin J. Mehta

Following member requested leave of absence:

President Elect Dr. C. P. Bansal
Hon. Sec. Gen: Dr. Sailesh Gupta
Chairperson - Dr TU Sukumaran
Member – Dr SG Kasi
Member – Dr Suhas V.Prabhu
Adviser - Dr Nitin K. Shah
Adviser - Dr Raju C. Shah
Ex-Officio - Dr Abhaya K.Shah

The President, Dr. Rohit C. Agrawal welcomed the members present in IAPCOI meeting and requested their cooperation in smooth conduct of the meeting. He thanked the entire committee for their monumental contribution in IAPCOI and also congratulated the committee members, especially the convener Dr Vipin M Vashishtha for their commendable job for the successful completion of more than one year of the committee.

1) Issue of conflict of interest

President Dr. Rohit Agrawal pointed out that it is extremely important to settle the issue of Conflict of Interest by all IAPCOI members. He requested all members to present their views about it.

Dr. Naveen Thacker expressed the view that any member who has conflict of interest for a particular vaccine should not participate in the decision making process related to formulation of recommendations of that vaccine. He further added that it is the procedure followed everywhere in all international fora, including GAVI board.

Dr. Panna Choudhary pointed out that there is no TOR set and there is no 'code of conduct' set by EB for IAPCOI. Also he pointed out that EB has not officially asked anything about conflict of interest to IAPCOI. But IAPCOI on its own has taken up this issue for greater transparency.

Dr. Monjori Mitra pointed out that there is not much scope of distortion of recommendations as whole team is working toward 'evidence based recommendations'. If one member has 'conflict of interest' and deliberately distorted recommendations, there are others to keep a check on it. It will not be advisable to dissolve this committee as its recommendations have come in public domain.

Dr. Vijay Yewale pointed out that there are several task forces in IAP, several guidelines are issued regularly by various groups like TB treatment guidelines, Asthma guidelines etc. They are made purely on the basis of science. IAPCOI in fact is becoming more and more transparent and making more and more evidence based recommendations. In the past, the entire activity of the IAPCOI was used to be funded by one or other vaccine manufacturing company, but now that practice has been abandoned.

Dr. Vipin M. Vashishtha pointed out that IAPCOI have been gradually moving in the right direction as far as issue of 'code of conduct' and 'conflict of interest' is concerned. The main focus of this committee is on maintaining transparency, issuing recommendations purely on the basis of evidence based process, adopting holistic approach toward vaccination hence addressing the issues of VPD and AEFI surveillance, resource building, developing meaningful collaboration with academia, GoI, industry, NGOs, and of course, formulating a code of conduct. This committee has been very transparent and recommendations, proceedings and minutes of the meeting have been put up on public domain on the website. He pointed out that resolving the issue of conflict of interest is the need of the hour. He suggested going by MCI guidelines for code of conduct and WHO guidelines for resolving the issue of conflict of interest.

Dr. Parthasarthy suggested that IAPCOI should come out with white paper about the excellent work done by this committee. He also stressed the fact that "IAPCOI Recommendations 2012' were evidence based and unanimous without any conflict of Interest whatsoever as some had doubted that these recommendations were made due to Industry pressure.

President Dr. Rohit Agrawal suggested a 'three member committee' should be formed by EB which will formulate the guidelines for selection of IAPCOI members, its TOR, and should also suggest how to resolve the issue of 'conflict of interest'.

2) ATR by convener:

Dr Vipin Vashishtha presented a brief action taken report on the activities of the committee. He informed members about the current status of various ongoing projects of IAPCOI viz EBR on Rota, AEFI, VPD surveillance, Textbook of Vaccines, KAP survey on Hib, and BD study on needle-free devices. He also presented a tabulated report on the disclosures on conflicts of interest issues made by the members/advisors in the last (24th August, 2012) meeting at Mumbai.

3) Report of AEFI nodal person Dr. Chitkara

Dr. Chitkara reported that a system of reporting AEFI has been incorporated with IDSurv website in collaboration with government and now it will be possible to report serious AEFIs online on IDSurv website. Once reported to this website, automatically appropriate government authorities will be alerted and appropriate action shall be initiated.

An article on AEFI was written by Dr Sosler & Dr Sujeet (NPSP), Dr A.J.Chitkara, Dr Naveen Thacker & Dr Vipin (IAPCOI) and was approved by Dr Ajay Khera & Dr M K Agarwal (MOHFW). This article is to be published in IP for dissemination of information amongst IAP members about need for reporting AEFI through the IDSURV portal. This is context of MOHFW & IAPCOI collaborative effort for strengthening the “National AEFI program”.

4) Discussion with Dr. Ramesh Goyal

Dr. Ramesh Goyal was invited as a special invitee to voice his concerns in front of the committee. He once again enumerated all the issues in a point-wise manner as has been done by him through e-mail circulations. He pointed out that what IAPCOI website mentions about code of conduct is not followed. He further said that IAPCOI was not following what was written on its own website. Dr. Vipin Vashishtha informed the house that whatever written on the website was correct and gradually followed. He reiterated that since Dr Ramesh Goyal had gathered all the information through committee’s website, it itself vindicated the stand taken by the committee in making its proceedings as transparent as possible. Dr Naveen Thacker stated that the current committee had already made its stand very clear and rest of the answers could be provided by the OBs/EB only. Dr Vijay yewale, Dr Parthasarthy also participated in the discussion. Dr Rohit Agarwal in the last replied to all his queries in a point-wise manner.

5) Dr. Panna Choudhary : EBR on Rotavirus vaccine (GRADE evidence)

Evidence based Indian data on Rota virus disease burden presented by Dr. Panna Choudhary. The members unanimously appreciated the hard work done by the reviewers headed by Dr Ashok Kumar of BHU, Varanasi. The members however raised several queries which were noted by Dr Panna Choudhury to apprise the EBR team later. The committee stated that payment to reviewers will be guided by TOR with CIAP.

6) Meeting with NCDC & IDSP teams at New Delhi

Dr Naveen Thacker and Dr Vijay Yewale represented IAP & COI during a very fruitful meeting with the directors of NCDC, Delhi and IDSP at their office. The NCDC people were pleasantly surprised with this innovative project and were of full praise of the IDSurv of the academy. They showed keen interest in cooperating with this new endeavor of the committee.

7) Revision of IAP Guide Book on Immunization:

- a. Dr. Monjori Mitra suggested recommendations for revision on chapter on JE and cholera vaccines
- b. Dr. Chitkara presented updates on chapters on Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus and chapter on immunology of vaccination
- c. Dr. Vipin M. Vashishtha presented an update on Pneumococcal vaccines
- d. Dr. Rohit Agrawal presented data on updates for HPV vaccine and immunization in special situations
- e. Dr. Parthsarthy presented data on vaccine for Tuberculosis
- f. Dr. Vijay Yewale presented data for updating chapter on varicella vaccine
- g. Dr. Panna Choudhary presented updates on chapters on MMR, Measles and Influenza vaccine
- h. Dr. S Sanjay gave presentation for revising chapter on Rabies Vaccine

8) An update on new JE vaccine(JEEV)

Representatives of Biological E. Ltd, India delivered a short presentation on their new inactivated, SA-14-14-2 based JE vaccine which they developed in collaboration with Intercell Ltd, Austria.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Rapporteur: Dr Pravin J. Mehta