

## **PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECT GROUP OF THE SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS**

Date: January 11, 2022 at 19:00 hrs.

Venue: The meeting was conducted in Virtual Mode

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Following members attended the meeting:

1. V.K. Gupta- In Chair
2. Rajender Parsad – In Chair for Item No. 1.
3. Bikas Kumar Sinha
4. Ramana Davuluri
5. Alope Lahiri
6. A. Dhandapani
7. B.N. Mandal
8. Dipak Roy Choudhury
9. Shibani Roy Choudhury
10. Vishnu Vardhan R.

The President welcomed all the members present in the meeting. The President then informed that he was happy to share with those present at the meeting that as a consequence of the initiative taken about a year back by the SSCA to start few Endowment Lectures (EL), three ELs inclusive of one Memorial Endowment Lecture (MEL), have been approved and would be initiated during the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held at ICAR, NAARM, Hyderabad in February 2022. These lectures would be held annually during the annual conferences of the SSCA. This concept has been conceptualised in tune with the thought of improving the financial health of the SSCA through Endowment Lectures and has its motivation from the decision taken during the Annual General Body meeting at the Tirupati Annual Conference in the year 2019, wherein, it was explicitly stated that the SSCA should make efforts to initiate few Endowment Lectures to honour celebrated statisticians of Indian origin. To give shape to this thought, Prof. David D. Hanagal volunteered to contribute an endowment sum of ₹ 1,00,000.00 for organising Annual Endowment Lecture in honour of his mentor and retired Professor of Pune University Prof. B.K. Kale.

As a follow up to this, another EL approved is the Bikas Sinha Endowment Lecture supported by the endowment sum donated by the family of Prof Bikas K. Sinha. Yet another MEL approved is the JKG Memorial Endowment Lecture supported by the endowment sum donated by the family of JKG and his strong well-wishers twin brothers Bimal and Bikas Sinha. The SSCA takes this opportunity to thank the donators for their generous support.

President further informed that the Endowment Lecture would mean a Lecture in honour of a living legend or a Lecture in memory of a celebrated statistician of high repute. To initiate these Endowment Lectures (EL/MEL), the SSCA would require some endowment money (to be kept as corpus money), and with the bank interest generated on the sum, the expenses on organization of the Endowment Lecture would be met (like a memento to be presented to the speaker, travel expenses of the speaker and the local hospitality, etc., if any). The endowment sum can be paid by the family members, friends, colleagues, collaborators, students or well-

wishers of the person, in whose name the Endowment Lecture is to be initiated. The Executive Council has the right not to accept a proposal. There would be a limited number of such endowment lectures. Thereafter the agenda items were taken up.

### **1. A New Proposal on Endowment Award (Dr. Rajender Parsad in the Chair)**

- (a) Dr. Rajender Parsad shared that in addition to the three EL/MEL, an Endowment Award has been proposed to be initiated in honour of Prof. V.K. Gupta, President of the SSCA. The proposal has been received from the families of Dr. Ramana Davuluri, Vice President of the SSCA and Professor, Department of Biomedical Informatics, Scientific Director, Bioinformatics Shared Resource, Stony Brook Cancer Center, Stony Brook University, New York, USA, and daughters and son-in-law of Prof. Gupta.
- (b) Dr. Rajender Parsad informed that the title of the award, as proposed is 'Dr. V.K. Gupta Endowment Award for Achievements in Statistical Thinking and Practice'. Among certain proposed guidelines for the award, it would carry a cash prize of ₹ 31,000.00 and a certificate. The award would be open to any statistician of Indian origin, settled in India or outside India, and above the age of 45 years. The total expenses for the award would be borne from the bank interest accrued from the Endowment sum. The award would start from the forthcoming 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held during February 2022. The awardee would be required to deliver a talk during the conference where the award will be given. The award would be given annually during the annual conference of the SSCA.
- (c) For selecting the awardee, nominations would be invited. Any member of the EC or any member of the SSCA can nominate a person for the award. All the nominations would go to the search cum selection committee to be appointed for the purpose. The committee has the authority to reject any or all the proposals. The committee has also the authority to nominate any person for the award. The award would be conferred at the annual conference of the SSCA every year. It would be based on the nominations received within a stipulated date. For selection of the awardee, a search-cum-selection committee has been proposed to be constituted.
- (d) The Search-cum-Selection Committee, as proposed by the donors, was modified by this group and approved.
- (e) It was also decided that the committee would meet soon and make the selection of the awardee at the earliest.
- (f) Since the conference is scheduled during February 2022, because of the paucity of time to invite nominations, it was decided that for the initiation of the first award, the committee members would propose the names and decide upon the awardee. It was also decided that the expenditure towards the initiation of first award for this year ONLY would be borne by the SSCA.
- (g) The above proposals were approved earlier in principle by the Secretariate of the SSCA. It was now formally approved in the committee as well.

The Members thanked the families of Dr. Ramana and Dr. Gupta for their generous financial support. Dr Ramana reciprocated it with thanks. He was confident to carry forward the event to a greater height.

Dr. Gupta also profusely thanked Dr Davuluri and his family and also members of his family for this great honour. He also thanked the members present for supporting the proposal.

For the remaining part of the meeting, **Dr. V.K. Gupta was in the Chair.**

## **2. Progress of the Forthcoming Conference**

- a. Dr. A. Dhandapani apprised of the progress made so far about the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference RASTA 2022.
- b. The Chief Guest of the conference would be Dr. Hemlatha, Director, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.
- c. The Keynote address would be delivered by Shyamal D. Peddada.
- d. The MN Das Memorial Lecture would be delivered by Dr. John Stufken.
- e. The JKG Memorial Endowment Lecture would be delivered by Dr. Minerva Mukhopadhyay.
- f. The Bikas Sinha Endowment Lecture would be delivered by Dr. Simo Puntanen.
- g. The B.K. Kale Endowment Lecture would be delivered by Dr. David D. Hanagal.
- h. So far there have been 44 acceptances for the invited talks.
- i. There would be 5 presentations to be made in the Hukum Chandra Memorial Session to be Chaired by JNK Rao and Co-Chaired by Rajender Parsad.
- j. There would be 6 presentations to be made during the Lal Mohan Bhar Memorial Session to be Chaired by Bikas Sinha and Co-Chaired by Rajender Parsad.
- k. There would be 4 presentations during the Financial Statistics Session.
- l. A maximum of 3 presentations would be made during the MN Das Memorial Young Scientist Award Presentation.
- m. About the Contributed Papers presentation, Dr. Dhandapani expressed some apprehensions about getting papers for presentation. It was decided that the name of this session may be changed to Invited Talk session for the Young Researchers below the age of 30 years. This would attract young faculty and senior Ph.D. students to make presentations. It was decided that A. Dhandapani and Vishnu Vardhan R. will co-ordinate to get a minimum of 50 speakers for this session. They may take help from V.M. Chacko, who is always very cooperative and helpful.

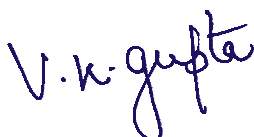
It was noted with satisfaction that the progress of the preparation of the conference is very good so far. We expect a very illuminating and enriching conference with many young scientists participating in the conference.

## **3. Any Other Item**

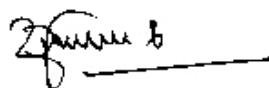
1. In tune with the committee formed for the Dr. V.K. Gupta Endowment Award for Achievements in Statistical Thinking and Practice, it was decided that similar committees may be formed for the other ELs/MEL/MN Das Memorial Lecture and MN Das Memorial Young Scientist Award. The approved Committees are given in the Appendix.
2. The President informed that there was a suggestion from Dr. Ashish Das to introduce a Popular Lecture of interest to all participants of the conference and addressing some burning issue of the country. The speaker must be an established person on the subject. The duration of such Lecture may be of 30-35 minutes and it might be organised during every annual conference. As an example, President mentioned that because of the prevailing pandemic, it would be a good idea to invite some established doctor to speak on COVID. This would educate the participants as well. It was felt that such lectures add value to the Society. The proposal was accepted.

3. Prof Bikas Sinha suggested that for the ELs/MEL/Awards etc., other than the delegates of the conference, some other senior persons may also be invited to attend such sessions. The individuals to be invited would be from such Institutions with which these events, and the person in whose name such event is happening, were associated with. For example, Late JKG and Bikas Sinha were closely associated with Calcutta University and ISI. So old timers and recent faculty who were/have been closely associated with JKG and BKS may be invited. Similarly BK Kale was closely associated with Pune University. So old timers and present faculty closely connected with BK Kale may be invited. Dr. V.K. Gupta extended this proposal to include the Inaugural Session, Keynote address and MN Das Memorial Lecture as well. Such special invitees would join the conference online without paying registration fee and would be sent the conference links. The list of such invitees would be prepared by Bikas Sinha and V.K. Gupta.
4. The members present also empowered the President and the Secretary to take any decision that may be required for smooth conduct of the conference.

The meeting then ended with thanks to the chair.



V.K. Gupta  
President, SSCA



Dipak Roy Choudhury  
Secretary, SSCA

New Delhi; 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Appendix

#### **Proposed Committees for the Memorial Lectures, Endowment Lectures and Awards**

##### **A. M.N. Das Memorial Lecture**

V.K. Gupta ([vkgupta\\_1751@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vkgupta_1751@yahoo.co.in))  
Bikas Sinha ([bikassinha1946@gmail.com](mailto:bikassinha1946@gmail.com))  
Thomas Mathew ([mathew@umbc.edu](mailto:mathew@umbc.edu))  
S.D. Sharma ([sdsharmaus@gmail.com](mailto:sdsharmaus@gmail.com))  
Sudhir Gupta ([sudhirgupta.stat@gmail.com](mailto:sudhirgupta.stat@gmail.com))  
Ashish Das ([ashishdas.das@gmail.com](mailto:ashishdas.das@gmail.com))

The M.N. Das Memorial Lecture is the most prestigious lecture of the SSCA held as a respect towards and to commemorate the Founder President of SSCA every year during the annual conference of the SSCA. The speaker could be any statistician active in research and placed anywhere in the globe, and aware of the research interests of Late M.N. Das. The committee must make a concrete suggestion at least around 60 days prior to the date of conference where the lecture would be held. The committee would be responsible to identify and approach the speaker identified and then inform the President, SSCA once the speaker is finalized. The speaker would be provided a memento and a certificate after the lecture is delivered.

## **B. JK Ghosh Memorial Endowment Lecture**

Bikas K. Sinha ([bikassinha1946@gmail.com](mailto:bikassinha1946@gmail.com))  
Bimal K. Sinha ([sinha@umbc.edu](mailto:sinha@umbc.edu))  
Joyee Ghosh ([joyee-ghosh@uiowa.edu](mailto:joyee-ghosh@uiowa.edu))  
Abhyuday Mandal ([amandal@stat.uga.edu](mailto:amandal@stat.uga.edu))  
V.K. Gupta ([vkgupta\\_1751@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vkgupta_1751@yahoo.co.in))  
Santosh Mukhopadhyay ([skupadhyay@gmail.com](mailto:skupadhyay@gmail.com))  
Minerva Mukhopadhyay ([minervam@iitk.ac.in](mailto:minervam@iitk.ac.in))  
Rajender Parsad ([rajender1066@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rajender1066@yahoo.co.in)) (to coordinate)

The Endowment Lecture would be held every year during the annual conference of the SSCA. The speaker must be a young female with (preferably) specialization in Bayesian inference. In case it is not possible to have a female young statistician with specialization in Bayesian Inference, then the speaker could be searched among young female statisticians. The committee would be responsible to identify the speaker and approach the speaker identified and then inform the President, SSCA once the speaker is finalized every year. The committee must make a concrete suggestion at least around 60 days prior to the date of conference where the lecture would be held. The speaker would be provided a memento and a certificate after the lecture is delivered.

## **C. B.K. Kale Endowment Lecture**

David D. Hanagal ([david.hanagal@gmail.com](mailto:david.hanagal@gmail.com))  
Ejaz S. Ahmed ([sahmed5@brocku.ca](mailto:sahmed5@brocku.ca))  
T.V. Ramanathan ([madhavramanathan@gmail.com](mailto:madhavramanathan@gmail.com))  
N. Balakrishna ([balajicusat@yahoo.com](mailto:balajicusat@yahoo.com); [nb@cusat.ac.in](mailto:nb@cusat.ac.in))  
K. Muralidharan ([kmurali.cpcr@gmail.com](mailto:kmurali.cpcr@gmail.com))  
Vishnu Vardhan Rao ([vrstatsguru@gmail.com](mailto:vrstatsguru@gmail.com)) (To coordinate)

The Endowment Lecture would be held every year during the annual conference of the SSCA. The speaker could be any young statistician active in research and placed anywhere in the globe. The committee must make a concrete suggestion at least around 60 days prior to the date of conference where the lecture would be held. The committee would be responsible to identify and approach the speaker identified and then inform the President, SSCA once the speaker is finalized. The speaker would be provided a memento and a certificate after the lecture is delivered.

## **D. Bikas K. Sinha Endowment Lecture**

Jyotirmoy Sarkar ([jsarkar@iupui.edu](mailto:jsarkar@iupui.edu))  
Mausumi Bose ([mausumi.bose@gmail.com](mailto:mausumi.bose@gmail.com))  
Kashinath Chatterjee ([kashinathchatterjee@gmail.com](mailto:kashinathchatterjee@gmail.com))  
Ashish Das ([ashishdas.das@gmail.com](mailto:ashishdas.das@gmail.com))  
Karabi Nandy ([Karabi.Nandy@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:Karabi.Nandy@UTSouthwestern.edu); [kxs76@yahoo.com](mailto:kxs76@yahoo.com))  
Baidya Nath Mandal ([mandal.stat@gmail.com](mailto:mandal.stat@gmail.com)) (To coordinate)

The Endowment Lecture would be held every year during the annual conference of the SSCA. The speaker could be any young statistician active in research and placed anywhere in the globe. The committee must make a concrete suggestion at least around 60 days prior to the date of conference where the lecture would be held. The committee would be responsible

to identify and approach the speaker identified and then inform the President, SSCA once the speaker is finalized. The speaker would be provided a memento and a certificate after the lecture is delivered.

**E. M.N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award**

V.K. Gupta ([vk Gupta\\_1751@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vk Gupta_1751@yahoo.co.in))

Dipak Roy Choudhury ([dipakp1951@gmail.com](mailto:dipakp1951@gmail.com))

At present, President is managing this with the help of Secretary. This job involves lot of confidentiality and so the group cannot be expanded.