

**MINUTES OF THE SOMA's 3<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL BODY MEETING**  
*held in*  
**THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL**  
**ARTHROPODOLOGY (SOMA) ORGANIZED IN KOLKATA ON 25-26**  
**NOVEMBER, 2019**

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The 12<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Medical Arthropodology (SOMA) was held at the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata on Nov. 25-26, 2019. The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Body Meeting of the SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ARTHROPODOLOGY (SOMA) was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, at 9.30 pm, and the following SOMA executive members and other participating arthropodologists attended:

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Earlier, on 25<sup>th</sup> November, the Registration desk for conference opened up at 9 am and the Inauguration commenced at 10 am, with Dr Kailash Chandra, Director, ZSI, Prof. Dr B.K. Tyagi, President, SOMA, Dr Sanyal, Rtd. Jt. Director, ZSI, Prof. Dr B. Reddy Naik, Secy. General, SOMA and Dr Raghunathan, Jt. Director, ZSI seated on the dias (Fig. 1). More than 125 participants attended the conference (Fig. 2).





Figs. 1,2. SOMA's 12<sup>th</sup> National Conference was organized in ZSI, Kolkata on Nov. 25-26, 2019.

After welcoming gesture to all the participants by the Director, ZSI, the SOMA President (Prof. B.K. Tyagi) introduced about the objectives of the Society (Fig. 3).





Figs.3,4. Dr Kailash Chandra, Director, ZSI welcoming Prof. B.K. Tyagi, President, SOMA who also offered the Presidential address.

Various SOMA Awards and Prizes were given away to the distinguished scientists/medico-arthropodologists (Figs. 5-20), as follows:

1. SOMA Lifetime Achievement Award ..... Dr Kailash Chandra
2. Prof. T.N. Ananthkrishnan Award ..... Prof. Aparna Dutta Gupta  
&  
Prof. N. Chandrasekaran
3. Dr V.P. Sharma Award ..... Prof. Devinder Kaur Kocher  
&  
Dr. D.S. Suman
4. SOMA Young Scientist Award ..... Dr. Souvik De  
&  
Dr Rashmi Bhattacharya

Three Awards/Prizes (carrying cash money) intituted by a group of medicaio-arthropodologists in memory of their parents were also given away to worthy winners, as follows:

1. Dr R.S. Sharma's "**Dr H.G. Sharma & Mrs. Kanti Devi Award**" for Medical Entomology. .... Dr Himmat Singh
2. Dr V.K. Srivastava's "**Vijayshree Award**" for innovative approaches in elimination of lymphatic filariasis. .... Dr Sagya Singh
3. Prof. Dr B.K. Tyagi & Mrs Ajita Tyagi's ..... Dr Sambashiva Daravath  
**"Tyagi Prize"** for novel basic research  
In medical arthropodology.

The SOMA took the opportunity to announce and give away certificates to worthy medicaio-arthropodologists the title of Fellow of the Society, 'FSOMA', following a decision taken at the 2<sup>nd</sup> SOMA Executive Council/General Body Meeting held in the framework of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Medical Arthropodology held at the Zoology Department, DAV (PG) College, Dehra Dun on October 26-27, 2018. Currently the total SOMA membership is as follows:

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Figs. 5-7. Felicitation of dignitaries during the 12<sup>th</sup> SOMA Conference.





Figs. 8-15. SOMA Awards distribution ceremony during the 12th SOMA Conference.





Figs. 16,17. SOMA Awards distribution ceremony during the 12th SOMA Conference.

On this occasion, two books, namely (i) **Dr Ronald Ross: mosquito, malaria, India and the Nobel Prize – an untold story of the first Indian Nobel laureate** (authored by: Drs B.K. Tyagi, Sajal Bhattacharya and B. Reddy Naik), and (ii) **Biobibliography of Dr R.S. Sharma: a malarialogist and vector control expert nonpareil** (authored by: Dr B.K Tyagi) as well as some new vector control products developed by the ZSI were released (Figs. 4-17).



Fig. 18-19. Release of SOMA's two books and the ZSI's innovation products during the 12th SOMA Conference.

On the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> November, the proceedings of the conference began with the SOMA Executive Council/General Body's Plenary Business Meeting at 9.30

am. Dr Tyagi initiated the Meeting by thanking the Organizers, particularly Dr Kailash Chandra, Convener, and his entire team of highly efficient scientists, as well as technical and supportive staff and research scholars for their unparalleled kindness, generosity, camaraderie, support and guidance showered on the participants throughout their sojourn in Kolkata and the conference. He was ecstatic about how the 12<sup>th</sup> NCMA had nurtured many memorable moments which would remain ingrained in participants' mind for a long time to come. He reminded that the conference had put forward many novel subjects for discussion and the interest shown by participants (>100), especially students and young researchers, was unparalleled in the annals of SOMA conferences. Highlights of the conference included:

(i) Dr Tyagi recounted by citing reference to the google search that the SOMA is the only scientific society worldwide which has been organizing conferences of medical arthropodology regularly annually (the 1<sup>st</sup> conference was organized in 2007) (*cf.* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthropodology>). The 12<sup>th</sup> SOMA Conference has not only surpassed all previous editions in attendance of participants but also proved to be one of the most successful event thus far. All participants gave full support for its novel, innovative and timely approach.

(ii) A total of 108 Abstracts were received and printed in an exquisite Abstracts Booklet (134 pp.).





Fig. 20. Abstracts book of the 12<sup>th</sup> SOMA Conference.

(iii) Quite many participating researchers hailed from as many as 12 States/UTs, such as Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Patna, Haryana, Telangana, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh etc.

(iv) First time in the history of science of medical arthropodology 07 prominent Awards and/or Prizes were given away at a conference, incl. a Citation with a Medallion, or prize/award money (*vide supra*).

(v) After having been formally registered as SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ARTHROPODOLOGY (S.O.M.A.) on 1st March, 2017, it has now commissioned uninterruptedly its Third Executive Council - General Body Meeting here during the 12<sup>th</sup> NCMA (2019) which is in order since inception of the foundation of the society.

(vi) A total of 58 lectures, including 10 Keynote/Plenary lectures, were delivered attracting huge interest from audience, particularly younger generation.

(vii) Release of a research book on Dr Ronald Ross (authored by Drs B.K. Tyagi, Sajal Bhattacharya and B. Reddy Naik), a bio-bibliography of Dr R.S. Sharma (authored by Dr B.K. Tyagi), and, more importantly, a new product for vector control by the ZSI made a novel and unique feature of the SOMA conference.

(viii) Dr Kailash Chandra, Director, ZSI, Kolkata & Convener, 12th NCMA handed over the newly designed SOMA plaque - as a token of responsibility of organizing the next Conference – to Dr D.S. Shiva, Assistant Professor & i/c Head, Deptt. of Biotechnology, Nizam College, Hyderabad in 2020. Dr Shiva cheerfully announced that the next conference will be an international one which all the participants lauded with full support for this grand development in the SOMA. The First International Conference of Medical Arthropodology will be held on Nov. 26-28, 2020.

Dr Tyagi finally summarized the activities of the SOMA whereupon the SOMA Executive Council/odonatologists approved the following recommendations:

1. The SOMA Constitution and By-Laws, with Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> NCMA, were duly approved.
2. The current Membership Fees Plan was re-visited and approved.
3. The four SOMA Awards, i.e. (i) SOMA Lifetime Achievement Award, (ii) Prof. Dr T.N. Ananthkrishnan, (iii) Prof. Dr V.P. Sharma, and (iv) SOMA Young Scientist Award were duly approved for future conferences. Along with these three personally instituted Awards/Prizes, i.e., (i) Dr R.S. Sharma's *Dr H.G. Sharma & Mrs. Kanti Devi Award* for Medical Entomology, (ii) Dr V.K. Srivastava's *Vijayshree Award* for innovative approaches in elimination of lymphatic filariasis, and (iii) Prof. Dr B.K. Tyagi & Mrs Ajita Tyagi's *Tyagi Prize* for novel basic research in medical arthropodology, were also approved.

4. Prof. Tyagi explained the reasons for lagging behind in bringing out the open access annual e-periodicals, *JOURNAL OF MEDICAL ARTHROPODOLOGY* and the semiannual, SOMA Newsletter, during 2019, as planned earlier during the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference, and urged to revisit the entire Editorial Board to make journals a reality as follows, with the approval of the participants, subject to annual review of satisfactory performance by those involved (by Prof. B.K. Tyagi, Dr Kailash Chandra, Dr Vijay Veer, Dr Rina Tilak and Prof. B. Reddy Naik):

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Dr. S. Anbalagan, GAC-MKU, Madurai	Dr Bisu Singh, Sikkim Univ., Sikkim
Dr. Jhansi Charles, Ex-MMC, Madurai	Dr Manish C. Patel, ZSI, Kolkata
Dr Ragonathan, ZSI, Kolkata	Dr Dhristi, ZSI, Kolkata
Dr Kumud Tyagi, ZSI, Kolkata	Dr John, VIT Univ, Vellore
	Dr M.R. Bhagyasree, Gurgaon

## **(2) SOMA Newsletter**

### *Editor in-Chief*

Prof. B.K. Tyagi

### *Editor*

Dr Himmat Singh, NIMR, Delhi

### *Managing Editor*

Prof. Neera Kapoor, IGNOU, Delhi

### *Editorial Board*

Dr Deepchandran chakraborty	Dr Sambashiva Daravat
Dr Devindra Gupta	Dr Girima Nagda
Dr Ramar Marimuthu	Siddaiah Madpathi

5. The frequency of SOMA Conferences at annual level will continue till at least 15<sup>th</sup> Conference where its suitability will be reviewed [preferably the 13<sup>th</sup> National/1<sup>st</sup> International Conference at Deptt. of Biotechnology, Nizam College, Hyderabad in 2020 (Dr D. Sambashiva); 14<sup>th</sup> at Deptt. of Zoology, School of Life Science, IGNOU, Delhi in 2021 (Prof. Neera Kapoor); 15<sup>th</sup> Deptt. of Zoology, MLS Univ., Udaipur in 2022 (Prof. Arti Prasad); and 16<sup>th</sup> at Savitribai Phule University, Pune in 2023 (Dr R.S. Pandit). Dr Karimbhai Meredia and Dr M. Ruth encouraged to have a conference overseas possibly in Uganda whereupon Dr Ruth would like to coordinate. Professor Tyagi is in correspondence.

6. Dr B.K. Tyagi was unanimously elected to continue to function as the 'Chairman of the Standing Committee for Organization of the National/International Conferences of Medical Arthropodology'.

7. In accordance with the suggestion during the 11<sup>th</sup> SOMA Conference (Kolkata, 2017) that all arthropodologists who become Life Member by paying fees by Dec. 31st, 2018, should become entitled for "FSOMA" - Fellow of the Society of Medical Arthropodology, duly endorsed by a communication duly attested by its President and the Secretary General of the Society, the following arthropodologists (subject to Secretary General's verification of having paid the Life Membership Fee) were elected FSOMA:

1. Prof. B.K. Tyagi, SOMA, Dehra Dun
2. Dr Vijay Veer, Ex-DRDO, Dehra Dun,
3. Dr Kailash Chandra, ZSI, Kolkata
4. Prof. B. Reddy Naik, OU, Hyderabad
5. Dr. Rina Tilak, AFMC, Pune
6. Prof. Neera Kapoor, IGNOU, Delhi
7. Dr Sajal Bhattacharya, AC, Kolkata
8. Dr R.K. Jauhari, DAV Coll., Dehra Dun
9. Dr R.S. Sharma, ICMR, New Delhi
10. Dr P.K. Srivastava, Ex-NVBDCP, Delhi
11. Prof. Karimbhai Meredia, MSU, USA
12. Dr M. Ruth, MSU, USA
13. Dr Varun Tyagi, DRL, Tezpur
14. Dr D.S. Suman, ZSI, Kolkata

The relevant e-certificates are being formulated.

8. Organization of the 13<sup>th</sup> SOMA Conference which will be SOMA's 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Medical Arthropodology, will be held in Nizam College, Hyderabad (Convener: Prof. Dr B/. Reddy Naik; Org. Secry.: Dr D. Sambashiva) was approved and the SOMA Plaque was passed to Dr Shiva by Dr Kailash Chandra with a formal announcement.



Fig. 21. Transfer of plaque of SOMA's insignia from Dr Kailash Chandra, Director, ZSI & 12<sup>th</sup> SOMA Conference Convener to Dr Sambashiva, the Org. Secry. for the SOMA's 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference (Hyderabad; Nov. 26-28, 2020).

9. A SOMA website ([www.soma16.org](http://www.soma16.org)) was inaugurated by Dr Kailash Chandra, Director, ZSI, while Prof. Tyagi lauded the efforts of Prof. Reddy Naik and his students including Dr Shiva and Mr Siddaiah in constructing the website so elegantly.

10. A SOMA document describing its history, objectives and achievements as well as future programmes will be tabled during the SOMA's 1<sup>st</sup> International/13<sup>th</sup> National Conference (Hyderabad, 2020).

11. Dr R.S. Sharma and Dr P.K. Srivastava donated Rs. 1,00,000 (Rs. One Lakh only) and Rs 50,000 (Rs Fifty Thousands), respectively, to the SOMA for giving away annually or biennially an Award (with a commensurate prize money accrued as a bank interest in course) to a medical entomologist in the memory of their parents. The money was already deposited to SOMA account. Prof. Tyagi also institutionalized a "Tyagi Prize" and made an arrangement to pay during each annual/biennial a fixed amount (not less than 5000.-), in the memory of his parents & parents-in-laws.

12. In accordance with the desire of Prof. Karimbhai Meredia to take the future SOMA conferences to other countries in which case Dr Ruth would coordinate with her African links who actually put me in touch with Dr. Louis Mukwaya – the Ugandan face spearheading the anti-mosquito war and the most renowned malaria researcher in the country, Dr Tyagi is undertaking correspondence with the concerned to find out future possibilities abroad. All SOMA Council members were quite happy with the move and wanted to explore the possibilities.

The Meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks, and with the resolve to meet again in Hyderabad during the 13<sup>th</sup> SOMA Conference.

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