

IAGRG General Body Meeting

IAGRG32@IISER Kolkata

20th December 2022

The General body meeting of IAGRG was held during 32nd IAGRG meeting on Tuesday, 20 December 2022, at 19:00 hrs Monday in Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium, IISER Kolkata Campus. The House was adjourned for 5 minutes due to a lack of quorum. The House reconvened at 19.05 hrs., and the meeting commenced thereafter.

Opening Remarks by the President and Secretary, IAGRG

The President and the secretary welcomed the members present. They thanked the local organisers for hosting an excellent and enjoyable conference. They informed that the GBM of IAGRG is the first meeting in person after the Covid-19 virus outbreak and lockdown was imposed in the country. The last in-person meeting was held at BITS-Hyderabad, after which one meeting was held in online virtual mode. It had been a very challenging period for all; however, IAGRG has initiated new activities like IAGRG school and virtual conferences/talks.

1. The President and Secretary informed that before the meeting proceeds to the agenda, they would like to announce the following matters for information to the members.

- a) The IAGRG council formed a committee to have regular IAGRG schools for Ph.D. students and Post-doctoral fellows. The committee chair and members are Prof. Anjan Anand Sen (chair), Prof. Amitabha Virmani, Prof. Archana Pai, Prof. Ajith P, and Prof. Sudipta Das.

The first IAGRG (online) school was held at CMI, Chennai and was highly successful and had nearly 1000 registered. There were lectures on Classical and Quantum gravity, Cosmology, large-scale structure, and Gravitational waves. Due to this success, the committee proposed an offline school for the next year at ICTS. The proposal is successful and will be held in the middle of 2023.

Prof. Rangarajan suggested to mix topics in the school. Also it was decided that college teachers can also apply for the school.

- b) Currently, IAGRG does not have its domain name, and the page is also static. Therefore, the council has procured a permanent domain

name (<https://www.iagrg.in/>). Prof. Rajesh Nayak showed the members the new IAGRG website and mentioned that the website would be done in a few weeks. All members appreciated Prof. Nayak's time and effort for the same.

c) Keeping with the current research in gravity, the council decided to have a new IAGRG logo. In the last (online) GBM, a three-member committee consisting of Prof. Ayan Chatterjee, Prof. Somasri Sen, and Prof. Srijit Bhattacharya was formed to look after the IAGRG website and associated things. The council requested the same committee to design a new IAGRG Logo. The committee announced a Logo design competition.

The competition attracted many excellent designs. The committee recommended the logo by Mr. Manish Kumar Tomta, a Ph.D. student at IISc. All members appreciated the new logo and suggested that the winner be awarded Rs. 5000. The committee will discuss this with Mr. Tomta to make minor changes to the logo before putting it on the website.

d) **VV Narlikar Best Thesis Award** Winners were announced. It was awarded jointly to:

Ashish Kumar Meena (IISER, Mohali)
Akash Kumar Mishra (IIT Gandhinagar)

e) The members of the General body also congratulated different Awardees:

VR Endowment Award Lecture:

Prof. Archana Pai (IIT Bombay)
Prof. Varun Sahni (IUCAA, Pune)

NR Sen Young Researcher Award:

Dr. Kinjalk Lochan IISER, Mohali
Dr. Dhiraj Hazra IMSc., Chennai

2. The Secretary IAGRG, Prof. Anjan A Sen presented the IAGRG Account Status. He also requested participants of the conference to become members of IAGRG if they have not already done so.

3. **Working Group on Gender under IAGRG.**

IAGRG President, Prof. Sumati Surya talked about Working Group On Gender in line with ASI Charter. It was discussed that IAGRG Council will take help from Prof. Harvinder Kaur Jassal and Dr. Aru Beri who are part of the Working Group on Gender under ASI. The GB discussed about the possibility of seminar by a Woman Scientist in every months (may be in Online mode).

4. **IAGRG Seminar Series**

Currently, IAGRG activity is limited to the organization of IAGRG and ICGC conferences. Hence, the council thinks it may be a good idea to widen the reach with more regular activities like the IAGRG online seminar series. Moreover, being online only requires funding for ZOOM or google meet access.

The series will be once a month, and the speakers will be senior Ph.D. students and Postdoctoral fellows working in India. Prof. Sayan Kar suggested the series should be open to all IAGRG members, especially faculty members working in colleges and Universities.

5. **Public Outreach**

The council suggested that IAGRG can request all senior IAGRG members to visit nearby schools and colleges and give a popular-level lecture. Prof. Sudhakar Panda mentioned that he could help with public outreach, including finances. Prof. Sayan SKar mentioned that IAGRG cannot use the money from individual project grant for this purpose.

6. Due to very low number of nominations received for NR Sen Young Researcher Award, it was proposed whether self Nomination can be accepted for this award.

Prof. Sayan Kar spoke against it.
Prof. Sudhakar Panda asked why the supervisors are not nominating their students?

Dr. Sudipta Sarkar spoke for self nomination.

Dr. P. Ajith spoke in favour of self nomination as long as the as the review process is rigorous.

Prof Sayan Kar proposed to do away with the “4 years of Working in India after the post doc” clause from the eligibility.

Finally the proposal for self nomination for NR Sen Young Researcher Award was accepted for trying out for next couple of years with three letter of recommendations.

7. It was mentioned that proposal asking for next ICGC meeting Will be floated soon.
8. Prof. Naresh Dadhich proposed to organise a workshop for AKR Centenary in 2023 at Kolkata.
9. Prof. Santunu Desai suggested that all the IAGRG plenary Lectures to be uploaded on IAGRG Website.
10. Prof. Sayan Kar suggested to increase the prize money for all the awards.
11. It was also suggested that Chairs of each session may summarise their sessions in the evening session.
12. Dr. Anjan Sen suggested for the best Poster Award during IAGRG and ICGC Meetings.
Selection Process: The posters displayed during IAGRG meetings will be judged by a committee constituted by the IAGRG in consultation with the SOC ensuring technical and gender representation. The committee will give its recommendation to the IAGRG council during the meeting. On the last day of the IAGRG meeting, the best poster awards will be announced, and the winners will receive the awards.

13. **Finance committee**

The secretary mentioned the involved process in getting a bank account that can be part of Section 80GGA. It requires a separate committee responsible for Finance. The council suggested that the following members be part of the Finance committee: the President of IAGRG, the Secretary of IAGRG, and Prof. Sanjit Mitra (IUCAA).

Members agreed with this proposal.

14. **Creche in future IAGRG meetings**

Members appreciated the LOC of IAGRG-32 for having a creche facility and suggested that future meetings should arrange a creche facility.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the president, IAGRG, Prof. Sumati Surya to those present.