**Minutes of EC meeting on 15th March 2020**

**Present:** EC members- Dr Shaila, Dr Amin, Dr Rashid, Dr Mirjahan, Dr Parvez, Dr Farhan, Dr Jesmin, Dr Najmun, Dr Halim, Dr Reza, Dr Shafiqul bar, Dr Irene, Dr Ishrat, Dr Jasim, Dr Moti, Dr Taposh, Dr Jessie

Advisory/benevolent fund committee members-Dr Shareef, Dr Ayaz, Dr Sabbir, Dr Rafiq, Dr Zahid

**Apologies**: Dr Jannatun, Dr Shafiq, Dr Khaled, Dr Sayek, Dr Iqbal, Dr Shamsul Alam

Twenty one members were present.

BMS, NSW president Dr Shaila Islam presided the meeting and acting GS Dr Farhan conducted the meeting. We discussed on following issues:

1. Dr Reza Ali gave a beautiful presentation on Corona 19 Virus and updated data and information: its spread, clinical features, prognosis and preventative measures.

2. Entertainment Night: Dr Emon discussed on this issue. Majority agreed to postponed the date 28th March and rescheduled in August’2020 depending on the Covid-19 situation. Dr Emon will check the availability and will give the update.

Ticket sell-Dr Lima-30, Dr Rina-10, Dr Jesmin-10, Dr Halim-10, Dr Farhan-30, Dr Rashid-20, Dr Chandan-10, Dr Jessie-10, Dr Shilpi-15, Dr Moti-10, Dr Maju-20, Dr Parvez-20.

Tickets will not be reprinted, if tickets are already sold/handed over to members then request them to keep in a safe place. Majority also agreed to arrange ASM and AGM on the same day. Novotel hotel has been booked on 5th September’2020. May need to change the date if required.

3. FBMSA: Dr Ayaz Chowdhury gave brief update about FBMSA activities of discussion with Bangladeshi officials & MPs in BD. Dr Reza Ali gave his honest opinion about FBMSA’s (parallel organization) activities from the beginning and expressed his willingness not to be included in BMS EC from next year onwards out of frustration. BMS NSW were not informed about the formation of GP steering committee and no discussion took place in BMS EC meetings in the past. For above reason, BMS NSW is unable to endorse GP steering committee formed by FBMSA. BMS only came to know after formation of GP steering committee via email from FBMSA. President Dr Shaila Islam clearly informed EC and FBMSA representatives about the periodical miscommunications from FBMSA. If that trend continues, BMS NSW will think about pulling out of their representatives from FBMSA.

Dr Shareef Dowla and majority EC agreed that ‘there is a series of COMMUNICATION GAP between federation activities and our state committee’. He suggested FBMSA EC meeting agendas should be sent to BMS, NSW president earlier and also requested FBMSA president to give a courtesy call to our state president about the agendas before discussing in the FBMSA meetings. So that BMS can brief their representatives in advance before attending FBMSA meetings.

4. Formation of GP forum: Convenor and other GPs who attended the GP forum meeting were invited. However, only Forum secretary and also BMS advisory committee member Dr Rafiq attended the meeting. He gave the update about the formation of GP forum- they had a meeting in mid-February’2020, around 24 doctors attended the meeting; a convening committee was formed with a convenor, a secretary & 3 co-convenors; they applied to fare trade for registration and currently waiting for approval. Their aims are education, training & clinical support to GPs in Australia and also liaison with GP college in Bangladesh and provide support to Bangladeshi GPs.

Dr Shaila explained about her letter regarding GP forum to general members, she explained the reason for sending the letter and she also told that she got approval from majority of EC members. Dr Reza, Dr Sabbir, Dr Rashid, Dr Shafiqul Bar, Dr Halim, Dr Najmun, Dr Ayaz, Dr Parvez, Dr Farhan and others participated in the discussion and Dr Rafiq tried to answer their question. Some of the questions were-

a) Were there any underlying grievances among the forum members? b) Why Dr Rafiq did not discuss this issue in EC meeting beforehand?

c) How would he explain his role as a past president of BMS, NSW & an advisor of current committee and now forming another medical organisation which will possibly cause division among Bangladeshi doctors. d) Why he did not think this issue when he was the president?

Some EC members think that if forum does the education program then BMS may not get enough sponsorship. GPs will have to be members of both organisation and they may not be interested to come to BMS program.

e) Why did not they think to form a GP subcommittee and work under the umbrella of BMS.

Dr Rafiq told that they wanted an organisation that will be only for GPs. BMS constitution would not allow them to form a subcommittee that can work autonomously. BMS EC has non-GP members and they will have to get approval from them. Moreover, their organisation represents GPs of whole Australia and BMS is state organisation. He also said that forum member will have to be member of BMS first, then will be able to be member of the forum.

However, BMS EC felt that all the forum aims and activities could be done under the umbrella of BMS, NSW and if needed constitution could be changed-at least could have the discussion. BMS, NSW also could raise all the forum issues to FBMSA and would recommend to form a single GP organisation under one umbrella.

Dr Shareef, the founding president of BMS, NSW gave an emotional talk and requested Dr Rafiq to dissolve GP forum and also cordially requested all forum members to come under one umbrella. Dr Sabbir also made a sincere & emotional request to Dr Rafiq. BMS EC agreed to start discussion with GP forum committee and Dr Rafiq was requested to talk with other members of forum. BMS, NSW want unity, not division.

At the end, majority requested Dr Rafiq to discuss with other members of GP forum to think about their position before finalizing registration process.

Dr Shaila concluded the meeting by giving thanks to all attendees