All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) and Indian Medical Association (IMA) - Memorandum of Understanding relating to collaboration and implementation of IMA National Professional Protection Scheme for the members of AIOS

Preamble

The All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) is the official organization of the ophthalmologists in the country. In fact it is the second biggest Association of Ophthalmic Surgeons in the world today with a membership of over 14000. The surgical expertise and professional competence are equivalent to that in the developed countries. However our society of late is concerned about the increasing litigations against our members for no fault of theirs in most instances. AIOS was considering extending legal help and other financial assistance to its members in such instances. As an initial step in this direction we have already constituted a legal cell which takes care of these litigations and other legal issues as and when they arise and offer legal assistance and other help and support to our members. But our society now feels that in these cases we should also support our members financially as well in the conduct of the litigation and also in cases where compensation has been awarded by the court of law.

The Indian Medical Association is successfully running a National Professional Protection Scheme for IMA members. We feel that instead of Instituting a separate PPS scheme by AIOS it may be more prudent and advantageous to join hands with the IMA and associate ourselves with IMA PPS scheme by offering our members the facility to join the NPPS with AIOS initiative in a suitable, mutually benefitting manner. We decided to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding after mutual discussion and agreement. Subsequently we will initiate membership enrollment to the NPPS scheme. However the official launch of the Scheme will be along with 70th Annual conference at Cochin in Feb 2012.

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AIOS already had discussions with the IMA leaders including Dr. Vinay Agrawal, National President of IMA, Dr Alex Franklin the secretary of NPPS and have mutually agreed to work together and implement the NPPS scheme for the benefit of Members of AIOS.

Accordingly we have arrived at the following Memorandum of Understanding.

1. The Scheme will be called ‘National Professional Protection Scheme’

1. The application form will be the same as for IMA-NPPS but will indicate ‘Application for AIOS Members’

2. The Scheme will be a joint collaboration of AIOS and IMA – NPPS for AIOS Members.

3. That the AIOS member should have a life membership of IMA to become eligible for NPPS admission. Membership through the Central IMA also will be considered as an eligibility criteria for NPPS membership

4. That the AIOS will constitute an’ AIOS –IMA NPPS Cell’ in AIOS to help the functioning of the IMA-NPPS for AIOS Members

5. The AIOS – IMA NPPS Cell of AIOS will help IMA-NPPS to look after the legal issue of AIOS.

6. That the NPPS will invite the AIOS NPPS IMA Cell to the governing council meeting of NPPS

7. That the application for NPPS in collaboration with AIOS will be routed through the AIOS. The Members should send their application to the AIOS

8. That the AIOS will be informed of any changes or modification in the rules bye laws and memorandum of NPPS and the NPPS will also inform AIOS the status of AIOS members periodically to the AIOS

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9. Any matter of dispute arising out of implementation of the scheme shall be mutually discussed and settled between the AIOS and IMA.

10. The NPPS scheme will seek the legal and expert opinion of the Legal Cell and AIOS NPPS cell in the conduct of litigations.

11. The IMA and AIOS will work together to ensure smooth running of the Scheme and periodically assess the progress and performance of the Scheme.

On Behalf of All India Ophthalmological Society          On behalf of Indian Medical Association

Dr. Ashok Grover                                      Dr. Vinay Agrawal
President, AIOS                                         President, IMA

Dr. Lalit Verma                                       Dr. D. R. Rai
Hony. General Secretary, AIOS                          Hony. General Secretary, IMA

Dr. Harbansh Lal                                      Dr. Alex Franklin
Hony. Treasurer, AIOS                                  Secretary, IMA NPPS

New Delhi, October 22, 2011