



Minutes of the IFCN ExCo Meeting: Leipzig, Germany, March 20 2013

Present: Paolo Rossini (PR), David Burke (DB), Mamede de Carvalho (MdC), Hiroshi Shibasaki (HS), Reinhard Dengler (RD), Stephanie Stevenson (Secretariat Office)

Regrets: Larry Phillips, Daniel Cibils

Meeting Commenced 0900

Report of the President:

PR's report first noted the process undertaken to modify the IFCN Statutes (and include on the ExCo representatives from the Chapters); the new statutes are on the ExCo agenda for final approval by ExCo and then to be approved by the General Assembly in Berlin. On the topic of educational needs, there is a desire for more local courses, particularly hands on education; and some of the materials developed for these local courses could be reformatted for the internet. In terms of outreach, the workshop supported by the IFCN in Wuhan, China was very successful, and PR has reached out to the Indian Neurological Academy with the interest to strengthen the linkage between the Society and the IFCN. PR thanked the ExCo members for their collaboration.

Discussion of the Final Draft of the IFCN Statute Changes:

PR noted that all ExCo members had reviewed the new statutes. It was noted that the Editor-in-Chief does not have to be approved by the GA, although Chapter Representatives will need approval of the GA. These statutes will govern elections for 2018 (not 2014); so the 2014-2018 ExCo term will have "old" type of ExCo, with a change to the "new" in 2018. The amended Statutes were approved unanimously by the ExCo. Next steps will include approval of the Statutes by the Canadian Societies Act, approval by the GA, and then the Statutes will be filed with the Canadian government (and will become valid only then).

Report of the Treasurer

RD reported that 2012 revenue from Elsevier is very similar to 2011. 2012 income from delegate dues will be approximately the same, and investment income will be a little higher. RD also reviewed the proposed 2013 budget and expenditures to date.

There was some discussion how the budgeted \$ 20,000 (CLINPH Awards) could be used alternatively for support for selected young investigators attending the ICCN 2014 meeting. It was decided that \$US20k in the 2013 budget and \$20k in the 2014 budget would be used to provide 8 - 10 awards of \$4000 to \$5000 each (designed to cover the expenses of attending the Congress including registration).

For information about these awards, please see <http://ifcn.info/showcontent.aspx?MenuID=1161#yi>.

Discussion of presentation of the awards/abstracts included the suggestion to have a specific session for awards and presentation of the abstract, or to intersperse these awards/abstracts within a particular topic area, of a short ceremony to give the awards.

On other expense items, the ExCo decided that special workshop funds of \$50,000 remain in budget, and PR suggests reserve some of this money for a meeting in India.

Member dues payments are coming in as per usual.

The following motion passed unanimously: The IFCN moves to adopt the Canadian Accounting Standards for not for profit entities effective January 1, 2012 with retroactive restatement of the 2011 fiscal year. For all accounting issues not covered by these rules, we move that our organization adopt the Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

ICCN 2014 Report:

The ICCN 2014 will take place March 20-23, 2014 in conjunction with the German Society meeting, which starts one day earlier and overlaps with ICCN.

Satellite Meetings (Technicians): RD reports two satellite pre-meetings, and will contact OSET re their plans to participate in the program.

Bid Procedure for ICCN2018:

PR reviewed the bid procedure from the 2014 meeting. A bid is expected from the AANEM/ACNS. Other bids from other geographical areas (i.e. Latin-America) should be encouraged.

Report from the Editor in Chief:

New nominees for Editorial Board membership have now been finalized. DB predicts the Impact factor will be less than 3 for 2012 (3.4 last time because of one highly cited paper and the number of papers was relatively smaller). DB is not in favour of impact factor formula and application, but the impact factor has an effect on the quality of papers submitted, so there are constant efforts to maximize it. Despite this, the whole ExCo encourages DB to continue his fruitful efforts in order to maintain the IF above the "psychological" threshold of 3.0.

Sponsored Subscriptions:

There was a discussion of what principles should be used in decision making in regard to sponsored subscriptions of CLINPH. There could be two goals of this program: to provide access to the Journal to (for example) libraries in developing countries that otherwise would not have access. And the sponsored subscriptions could also be used as a marketing tool to introduce the journal to a new market

(e.g. China). As for other fields, such interventions should clearly distinguish between interventions in support of disadvantaged areas and those which are focused on Countries which are “strategic” for IFCN development (= promotion).

Chapter Reports:

Asia-Oceania Chapter – HS presented the 5th AOCCN draft program, and is working closely with the local organizers on the conference. The ExCo meeting is now set for August 27 (Tuesday).

European Chapter- MdC reports that the recent educational survey is now posted on the Chapter website. Additionally the Chapter has sponsored a number of courses, and the upcoming meeting in Oxford (also sponsored by the IFCN ExCo). The Chapter is producing guidelines on repetitive TMS.

Latin American Chapter – Report from DC, read by MdC. This Chapter has President and Treasurer elections coming up. There has been little activity in the last year, with more meeting focused activity scheduled for this year and next.

ICNS Report:

MdC suggests a letter to national neurology societies of countries without formal national societies of neurophysiology, and an appeal to be published in the WFN journal, in order to invite neurologists doing neurophysiology to be members of the ICNS (because ICNS membership is stagnant).

Committee Reports:

Election Committee: HS reported the first round of elections resulted in the election of Dr. Mark Hallett of USA for President and Dr. Reinhard Dengler of Germany for Treasurer. In the second round of elections (currently in process), nominations for three candidates were accepted, but one was excluded after voting began (because it eventually became clear he was affiliated with a European Chapter Society and therefore not eligible to run). The third round call for nomination of candidates for member-at-large will begin in June 2013.

Rules Committee: HS reported the Committee received a revised draft of the IFCN Statutes amendment on October 2012 and gave feedback to the IFCN ExCo in two weeks. Their main suggestions included how to select Chapter representatives, and how to define their term. The Committee received further the revised draft of the amendment in February 2013, and the Committee pointed out two days later that – according to the IFCN Statutes - the appointment of the editor-in-chief does not require GA ratification.

Education Committee: PR reported that Mark Hallett noted 23 Societies responded to survey re education needs, with an interest in more guidelines and more local courses, particularly hands on. Some of the materials developed for local courses could be adapted for the internet (e.g. videotaping of local courses). RD suggested involving the President of OSET in the planning committee of the

ICCN2014. There was a suggestion from DB to provide competitive funding to support local hands on courses. The IFCN could develop and then provide pre-prepared materials to those meetings. This would require categorizing what materials are currently available from the IFCN and requesting materials from national societies who were willing to share them, but developing and distribution and essentially benchmarking may bring in issues of liability. PR underlying (and the ExCo approved) that specific initiatives should be carried out in the near future in order to prepare IFCN-certified material for educational initiatives and purposes.

Website Report:

SS reported the average number of visitors per month increased 12.55% 2012 over the number of visits in 2011.

Scholarship Report:

DC submitted a report looking at the progress of scholarship recipients. HS notes it has been 5 years since the scholarship process has been instituted, and there have been many good applications. HS suggests increasing the number of scholarships to 3 per year (from 2). RD notes this would require an increase in the budget that would be affordable for 2013. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned 15.15