

Report from IFCN Executive Committee (May 2010)

This is to follow up our previous report circulated in December 2009, in order to report what has occurred since then and will be considered in the near future. In the meantime, we had the eighth Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting in conjunction with the 54th Meeting of the German Society of Clinical Neurophysiology held in Halle on March 17, 2010.

1. Election of the next ExCo officers

The third round of ballot voting for the offices of the next ExCo officers (Members-at-Large) started on January 29, 2010 and was completed on March 31, 2010. As a result, Dr. Mamede de Carvalho of Lisbon and Dr. Lawrence H. Phillips of Charlottesville, Virginia were elected as the next Members-at-Large.

Consequently, the next officers of IFCN ExCo will be Dr. Paolo M. Rossini of Rome as the President, Dr. Daniel Cibils of Montevideo as the Secretary, Dr. Reinhard Dengler of Hannover as the Treasurer, Dr. Hiroshi Shibasaki of Kyoto as the Past President, Dr. David Burke of Sydney as the Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Mamede de Carvalho and Dr. Lawrence H. Phillips as the Members-at-Large.

2. Application of new member societies

Society of Neurologists of Bangladesh and Societe Guineenne de Neurologie have applied for the new IFCN membership. Currently both societies are revising their constitutions according to the suggestion by the IFCN Rules Committee.

3. International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS)

The ICNS consists of members from non-affiliated countries or countries with an affiliated society if the statutes of that society do not allow them to be members. Currently it has 20 members from various countries such as Armenia, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Macedonia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. Although ICNS was approved as a member society of IFCN by mail voting of General Assembly according to the suggestion of a legal consultant of IFCN, the legal position of this society is under re-investigation by the legal consultant.

4. Financial issues

Thanks to the great diligence of our Treasurer, Dr. Andrew Eisen, the IFCN has

been kept in a good financial position. He and the Treasurer-elect, Dr. Reinhard Dengler, held a treasurer turnover meeting in Vancouver on April 19, 2010, by inviting the accountant, financial adviser, lawyer and bank officials to establish a smooth transition of the Treasurer's office. The operations summary of the current Fiscal Period and a budget for the forthcoming Fiscal Period (2011 – 2014) will be presented by the Treasurer to the Delegates in advance of the General Assembly meeting in Kobe.

5. Special travel grant for attendants to General Assembly meeting

We decided to provide a special travel grant of 1,000 USD for delegates from financially disadvantaged countries, which have paid their annual dues, to allow for participation in the General Assembly meeting to be held during the 29th International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology in Kobe. The number of recipients of this support is limited to 10.

6. IFCN support of proposed international meetings

Support for scientific meetings is usually the responsibility of Chapters, because each Chapter receives 100,000 USD from IFCN for each Fiscal Period. However, in view of the fact that some scientific meetings may cross Chapter boundaries, we are ready to consider providing limited financial support for up to two scientific meetings per year, taking into account the scientific significance, relevance to clinical neurophysiology, geographical balance, size of the meeting, and obligation to publish review articles in *Clinical Neurophysiology* after peer review.

7. International scholarship for young investigators

Application for the year 2010 has been received from 5 candidates. As the results of careful evaluation by ExCo, Dr. Armen Galstyan of Armenia and Dr. Birrie Deresse Ewunetu of Ethiopia were selected as the award recipients.

8. Editorial and publication issues

Currently the time from submission to first decision is 33.1 days on average, and publication times are mainly determined by the time needed by the authors for revision. The number of pages of the single issues has been reduced because of format changes. The current impact factor ranges at 2.9, the highest value so far. Being recommended by the publisher, it was agreed to move to digital printing for both regular issues and supplements.

Brazilian Society of Clinical Neurophysiology has reached agreement with the publisher on a fixed rate for online subscription of their members. An increasing number of member societies are expected to adopt the journal as their official journals with the similar subscription system.

9. Sponsored subscription

Sponsored subscription has been provided the financially disadvantaged societies with free journals for the last 10 years. We have decided to continue the sponsored subscription program only with electronic access through the IFCN website. Only members of IFCN member societies are eligible to apply for a sponsored subscription. Therefore, those individuals from countries that do not have member societies are encouraged to join the International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS) so that they can still accept this service. The information about ICNS is available on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>).

10. IFCN guidelines

IFCN guidelines on visual evoked potentials and electroretinogram have been edited by Dr. Graham Holder of London, UK and Dr. Gastone Celesia of Chicago and accepted for publication in *Clinical Neurophysiology*. The guidelines on transcranial magnetic stimulation 'how to do it' are being edited by Dr. Hartwig Siebner of Copenhagen with assistance of Dr. Groppa of Kiel. The IFCN documents on transcranial magnetic stimulation 'safety issues' that are based on the IFCN sponsored meeting held in Italy in March 2008 were published as IFCN guidelines by Dr. Simone Rossi as the editor in the 2009 December issue of *Clinical Neurophysiology*.

11. 29th International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ICCN)

This meeting will be held in Kobe International Conference Center and Kobe Portopia Hotel, Kobe, Japan from October 28 to November 1, 2010. The preparation for the meeting is going smoothly. The Third Announcement has been circulated to all member societies in March 2010. Scientific program for all the invited speakers has been completed. Twenty-four applications for proposed workshop have been received, and 7 workshops have been chosen by the Scientific Program Committee and been added to the program.

Deadline of abstract submission for poster presentation was extended from January 14, 2010 twice, first to March 31 and then to April 21. As the results, nearly 800 abstracts have been received. The deadline for early pre-registration was extended from March 31, 2010 to June 30.

There are three kinds of award available for young participants of age below 40 as follows (<http://www.iccn2010kobe.com>).

IFCN Fellowship

A number of fellowships will be offered by IFCN. The applicants must be members of IFCN member societies or members of International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS) (<http://www.ifcn.info>) whose abstracts have been accepted. The fellowship recipients will receive a scale of financial award depending on country of residence. The application should be made to the President of each member society by the end of May 2010, so that each society proposes the names of successful candidates to the IFCN secretariat. Final decision will be made by the IFCN ExCo.

Young Investigators Award

More than 10 abstracts will be selected by the Scientific Program Committee from those who applied for this award when submitting the abstracts, and will be awarded during the congress.

The M.A.B. Brazier Young Investigator Award and the W.A. Cobb Young Investigator Award

Among original manuscripts published or accepted for publication in Clinical Neurophysiology from June 1, 2009 to June 9, 2010, eligible manuscripts applied by the authors for these awards will be reviewed by the Editors, and final decision will be made by IFCN ExCo. Each recipient will receive 3,500 USD from Elsevier at the Congress. Application for these awards should be made by writing to the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. David Burke (david.burke@sydney.edu.au), by June 10, 2010.

12. General Assembly meeting in Kobe

The meeting will take place in International Conference Room of Kobe International Congress Center from 11:00 to 14:00 on Sunday, October 31, 2010. There will be reports from the IFCN President, Secretary, Treasurer,

Editor-in-Chief, and Chairpersons of Committee. The time and place for the next International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology will be decided by voting. Amendment of IFCN Statutes, By-Laws, and ICNS Statutes will be discussed and voted. All the materials related to these amendments will be circulated to Delegates in advance of the actual meeting.

Each member society is requested to report to the IFCN Secretary in advance the names of its Delegate or its alternate, and additional representatives depending on the number of dues-paying members of each society (please refer to Article 6.1 of the IFCN Statutes).

Special travel grant will be provided to delegates from financially disadvantaged countries to participate in the General Assembly meeting in Kobe (see item 5).

13. Bidding for the 30th International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

Two bids were received for ICCN2014, Lyon from the French Society and Berlin from the German Society. IFCN ExCo will review these bids, and final decision will be made by voting following presentations in the General Assembly meeting in Kobe.

14. Amendment of IFCN rules

As we have reported to all Delegates in the ExCo Reports twice a year, we have discussed the current IFCN Statutes throughout this Fiscal Period. In particular, we formed an IFCN Task Force in 2008 by inviting officers of all Chapters and our legal consultant for discussing the current system of election and voting. Now that the proposed amendments have been approved by the IFCN Rules Committee with the help of our legal consultant, those will be first presented to you by mail in advance, and will be discussed and voted in the General Assembly meeting in Kobe.

15. Communication with Delegates of member societies

We believe it is extremely important for each member society to keep close contact with the IFCN ExCo, and we will appreciate your feedback on any issue. Thoughts or suggestions for promoting clinical neurophysiology are always welcomed. In order for us to keep in touch with your societies efficiently, it is extremely important to have correct information about the names and contact address of the current officers of your society. The IFCN secretariat, Ms. Stephanie Hudson

(shudson@venuewest.com), is regularly updating the contact information, but we will appreciate your cooperation by informing her of any change in the officers of your society or chapters.

May 10, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hiroshi Shibasaki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hiroshi Shibasaki, MD, PhD

IFCN President