

Report from IFCN Executive Committee (07/2007)

Following the first report of this Fiscal Period (2007-2010) which we distributed to you on January 10, 2007 and you will find on the IFCN website, here we would like to report what has occurred since then, including some important issues such as election of the new IFCN Secretary and selection of the next Editor-in-Chief of our official journal.

1. Election of the IFCN Secretary

Since Professor Johannes Noth decided to resign from the position of Secretary because he has accepted the position as the Dean of Medical Faculty of Aachen Technical University, we decided to run another election for that position. According to the IFCN Statutes 5.6 (a) (i), the Nomination Committee was formed by the Executive Committee (ExCo) under the chairmanship of the Past President (Professor Francois Mauguere) by electing Professor Donald Sanders (USA), Professor Jeanette Farina (Brazil) and Professor Mustare Veerendrakumar (India) as its members. In response to the call by the Nomination Committee, six candidates were nominated by the Delegates of member societies by January 31, 2007, and four of them accepted the candidacy. Voting was carried out by ballots from February 9 through February 25, 2007, according to the IFCN Statutes 5.6 (a) (iv) and 6.1. As the result, Professor Reinhard Dengler of Germany was elected as the Secretary and he immediately took over the position in the ExCo.

2. Selection of the next Editor-in-Chief

Since Professor Mark Hallett is going to complete his term as the Editor-in-Chief at the end of 2007, we selected the next Editor-in-Chief according to the IFCN Statutes 5.6 (b) and the IFCN By-Laws 4.1. First we called for candidates from as many sources as possible, and applications were received from 9 excellent candidates by January 31, 2007. Those applications were reviewed in detail by all the ExCo members, and after a very careful discussion at the ExCo meeting held in Taipei on April 8, 2007, Professor David Burke of Australia was selected as the next Editor-in-Chief. He is expected to make his plans over the remaining time of this year, and take office on January 1, 2008.

3. The second meeting of the Executive Committee

The second meeting of ExCo in the current fiscal period was held on April 8, 2007 in conjunction with the 30th Annual Meeting of Taiwan Neurological Society held in Taipei. Various important issues were discussed including the selection of the next Editor-in-Chief (see above) and amendment of the IFCN rules, as will be reported in relation to each item.

4. Approval of the minutes of General Assembly held in Edinburgh

The minutes of the General Assembly held in Edinburgh on September 14, 2006 were approved by the Delegates of member societies by e-mail. In view of the fact that previously the minutes of General Assembly were approved in the next General Assembly held 4 years after the actual meeting, the prompt approval by e-mail, fax or airmail according to the new IFCN By-Laws 2.2.2, which was approved in the General Assembly in Edinburgh, is a remarkable step forward.

5. Possible new member societies of IFCN and International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS)

No new member societies have joined the IFCN since the beginning of this Fiscal Period. However, the ExCo is exploring the possibility of inviting Ireland, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa to join IFCN. For those countries having less than 10 clinical neurophysiologists as possible dues-paying members, the ICNS, under the Presidency of Professor Daniel Cibils, is inviting candidates to join the Society including those of Egypt, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sudan.

6. Foundation of North American Chapter

ExCo has explored the possibility of founding a North American Chapter. So far, the three societies of North America: American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM), American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) and Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists (CSCN) have agreed to form the Chapter in principle. Ms. Shirlyn Adkins, Executive Director of AANEM, has already prepared a draft of the Chapter By-Laws. After discussions and modification of the draft organized by Professor Andrew Eisen, the liaison officer of IFCN ExCo

to the societies of North America, the draft will need to be approved by all three societies, and then processed by the IFCN ExCo and the Rules Committee.

7. Editorial issues

We are very pleased to report to you that the impact factor of our journal *Clinical Neurophysiology* has steadily increased and now it is 2.718.

Candidates of outgoing and incoming members for the rotation of Editorial Board of *Clinical Neurophysiology* were proposed by the Editor-in-Chief and discussed in the ExCo meeting on April 8, 2007. The rotation thus agreed has already been processed.

In view of the fact that Yellow Pages of *Clinical Neurophysiology* were nowadays used by only a limited number of readers, and because of the more popular use of the IFCN website in recent years to obtain similar information, Yellow Pages were cancelled starting from the 2007 April issue of the journal.

In addition to the three projects for IFCN guidelines (SEP, VEP/ERG, ERP) as reported in the previous ExCo report, documents related to transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) are planned, including safety issues, clinical utility, how to do it, and training. Of these topics, the review paper on clinical utility has been prepared by an international committee chaired by Professor Robert Chen of Toronto, and is in the final stages of revision for publication in *Clinical Neurophysiology*. The document on 'how to do it' will be another IFCN guideline.

Currently there are few books planned for the Book Supplement Series. Thus any proposal of books for this series is welcome.

Sponsored subscriptions to *Clinical Neurophysiology* and its supplements were initiated by a previous ExCo (1997-2001), and have been managed by the previous Past President, Professor Carl Lucking, as the Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee. The goal of this program is to provide representative members of financially disadvantaged societies with free

copies, and this project will be continued. The contact person for this project is now the IFCN Secretary, Professor Reinhard Dengler.

8. Financial issues

As reported by the IFCN Treasurer, Professor Andrew Eisen, in the General Assembly in Edinburgh and also as you can see in the section of IFCN Profile on the IFCN website, the finances of IFCN have been quite healthy and conservative.

9. Next International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ICCN)

As you know, the 29th ICCN will be held from October 28 to November 2, 2010 in Kobe, Japan. The members of the Organizing Committee of International Congress (OCIC) were announced in the previous ExCo report, but Professor Reinhard Dengler who was recently elected as the IFCN Secretary will join the Committee as a member from IFCN (replacing Professor Noth). OCIC will meet in Kobe on April 19, 2009, immediately following the 4th Asian-Oceania Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology and its Chapter Meeting (April 15 – 18, 2009 in Seoul). According to the agreement in the first ExCo meeting held in Edinburgh, Presidents and liaison officers of each Chapter were invited to join the Scientific Program Committee as members. Thus, Professor Paolo Rossini and Professor Kerry Mills from European Chapter, Professor Jose H Xavier de Castro and Professor Daniel Cibils from Latin American Chapter, and Professor Rawiphan Witoonpanich from Asian-Oceania Chapter were invited and agreed to join the Committee. The liaison officer of Asian-Oceania Chapter happens to be the Convener of 29-ICCN.

10. IFCN sponsored meetings

As previously reported, the International Consensus Meeting for Electrodiagnostic Criteria for Diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis was successfully held in Awaji, Japan on December 3 – 5, 2006. Since then the draft of the criteria has been carefully prepared by the participants and was submitted to Clinical Neurophysiology for possible publication.

A Clinical Neurophysiology Symposium was held in conjunction with the 30th Annual Meeting of Taiwan Neurological Society in Taipei on April 7,

2007, with Professor Yang-Chyuan Chang of Taiwan as the convener. All the members of IFCN ExCo participated in the symposium as speakers and shared current topics of interest with local clinical neurophysiologists.

A workshop on Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Bangalore, India on April 13-15, 2007 with Professor Mustare Veerendrakumar as the convener. The meeting was well attended and very successful.

A Neurophysiological Monitoring Meeting was held in Montevideo, Uruguay on April 19-22, 2007, with Professor Daniel Cibils as the convener. The meeting was well attended and very successful.

Although it was not a sponsored meeting, Professor Hiroshi Shibasaki participated in the scientific meeting of Chinese Society of EMG & Clinical Neurophysiology (President: Professor Liying Cui) and attended an unofficial meeting of their ExCo members.

11. Amendment of IFCN rules

Sections of the IFCN rules related to nomination and election of the ExCo officers were discussed at the ExCo meeting on April 8, 2007. The current IFCN Statutes 5.6 (a) (iii) reads “the geographical areas are (1) North and South America, Australasia and Japan, and (2) Europe, Asia (except Japan) and Africa”. In view of the discrepancies between this geographical division and the Chapters, it was agreed to amend the Statutes to “Geographical areas are (1) North America, (2) Latin America, (3) Asia-Oceania, and (4) Europe, Middle East and Africa”.

Eligibility of member societies for candidacy and voting for IFCN ExCo was also discussed at the ExCo meeting. It was agreed that the statement "Even if a society is not eligible to vote, its individual members may still nominate persons for any position, and its members remain eligible for nomination" (Statutes 5.6 (a) (iii)) should be changed to "Even if a society is not eligible to vote, its members remain eligible for nomination; such nominees should take membership in the ICNS before becoming eligible".

Composition of Nomination Committee was also discussed. The current

statement of the Statutes 5.6 (a) (i) reads “Not less than one year before the end of the Fiscal Period, the Executive Committee shall elect three delegates to serve as a nomination committee under the chairmanship of the Past President (the “Nomination Committee”). To prevent a conflict of interest as might occur under the wording of the present Statutes, it was agreed that ‘three delegates’ of the current statement is to be replaced by ‘three persons of member societies’.

As for the above three items, the final wording of the new section will be proposed to the General Assembly by the Rules Committee.

Disciplinary balance of ExCo members (Statutes 5.6 (a) (iii)) was also discussed, but it was decided to leave the current statement without change.

As regards the payment of annual dues (Statutes 2.4), it was agreed that the statement “A member society failing to pay its annual dues for four years shall be deemed delinquent and that society will be recommended to the General Assembly for removal as a member society of the IFCN, according to Statutes 2.3” will be added. The final wording for this item will be also proposed by the Rules Committee.

As regards the membership of ICNS (Article 3 of ICNS By-Laws), it was agreed to change the current statement “The society shall consist of honorary fellows, fellows, members and junior members from non-affiliated countries. Additional members may be from countries with an affiliated society if the individual cannot be a member of that affiliated society, and that society provides written support for the individual’s request for ICNS membership.” to “The society shall consist of fellows, members and junior members from non-affiliated countries or countries where their society is ineligible to vote at the General Assembly”.

12. Possible donation of second hand neurophysiological equipments to developing countries.

This project was proposed by Professor Daniel Cibils as the President of ICNS, and discussed at the ExCo meeting. The message related to the donation and receipt of the equipment will be prepared by Professor Cibils

and Professor Dengler and appear on the IFCN website shortly.

13. Archives of IFCN

It was agreed in the ExCo meeting that there is a need to archive the IFCN materials and create a historical document. As you might be aware of, Professor William Cobb wrote a book titled “Wave Length. A history of the IFSECN” and distributed it to the participants to the ICCN held in London, UK in 1985. That book contained the detailed history of this Federation from the beginning up to around 1982. To follow up the subsequent history of IFCN, Professor Marc Nuwer and Professor Carl Lucking were invited to contribute a monograph for this purpose and they agreed to write it. By the proposal of Professor Nuwer, we are now planning on printing a soft cover book as the second edition to the Cobb’s book, so that we can distribute it to the participants to the ICCN_2010 (Kobe).

14. Arms Fairs Exhibition of Reed Elsevier

As some of you might have heard, Reed Elsevier has been actively engaged in the International Arms Fairs Exhibitions for recent years. Since it was judged by the ExCo as inadvisable for the Elsevier publisher, even as a branch of Reed Elsevier, which publishes materials related to life science, we wrote a letter to the Chairman of Reed Elsevier Group signed by the IFCN President and Editor-in-Chief, asking to discontinue the activity. Just recently we heard from the publisher that Reed Elsevier decided to exit the defense exhibition sector. We are sure that many related societies wrote similar letters.

15. Association with functional neuroimaging groups

With the rapidly growing size and number of societies dealing with functional neuroimaging, the importance of IFCN having close association with the neuroimaging groups was recognized at the ExCo meeting. Since German Society of Clinical Neurophysiology successfully liaised with other societies involved in functional neuroimaging, Professor Dengler is going to submit a report on how they did it.

16. Sources of information

Most of the information about IFCN is available on the IFCN website

<http://www.ifcn.info>. If you have any question or comments, however, please feel free to contact any of the ExCo officers or Chapter officers whose contact addresses are available on the IFCN website. We are happy to keep close contact with all the member societies.

July 1, 2007

Hiroshi Shibasaki, MD, PhD

IFCN President