

Report from IFCN Executive Committee (December 2008)

This is to follow up our previous report circulated in July 2008, in order to report what has occurred since then and will occur in the near future. In the meantime we had the fifth Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting on October 7, 2008 in conjunction with the 5th Latin American Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology held in Puebla, Mexico.

1. New member societies

Application of Clinical Neurophysiology Section of Malaysian Society of Neurosciences, Irish Society, and International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS) for new IFCN membership was approved by General Assembly through e-mail ballot voting in August 2008. This brings a total of 60 member societies from 57 countries, and with the inclusion of the International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS) there are total of 61 member societies.

2. Nomination and election of the next ExCo officers

In accordance with the IFCN Statutes Article 5.6-a, the Nomination Committee will soon invite nominations from the member societies for the offices of President and Treasurer as the first round, Secretary as the second round, and two Members-at-Large as the third round. The Nomination Committee is composed of Professor Francois Mauguier (Lyon) as the Chair, Professor Donald Sanders (Durham, NC), Dr. Jeanette Farina (Porto Alegre) and Dr. Mustare Veerendrakumar (Bangalore).

3. Geographical areas and election

As we have reported to you in the previous ExCo report, the approval of the Statutes of North American Chapter by the Delegates via e-mail vote in December 2007 has resulted in four Chapters in IFCN: Latin America, Asia-Oceania, North America, and Europe including Middle East and Africa. Currently the IFCN Statutes (Article 5.6-a-iii) specify two geographical areas: (1) North and South America, Australasia and Japan, and (2) Europe, Asia (except Japan) and Africa. This inequitable situation has prompted IFCN ExCo to explore adopting a new system reflecting the four geographical areas corresponding to the Chapters for the purposes of nomination of IFCN officers. We have received feedback from the North American Chapter and the European Chapter regarding this issue in

response to the last ExCo report. After careful discussion in the ExCo meeting in Puebla, the ExCo decided to propose to the General Assembly, after the launching of the nomination for the forthcoming election, the amendment of a part of the Article 5.6-a-iii of the IFCN Statutes from the current two geographical areas into the four areas corresponding to the Chapters. However, since there is a significant imbalance even among the four geographical areas in terms of the number of societies, the number of members and the number of votes, and since there is a significant imbalance in the number of votes relative to the number of dues-paying members among member societies, the ExCo decided to form a task force in order to explore how we can improve the current system, so that we can hopefully make some new proposal to the General Assembly in Kobe in 2010.

Since this is a very important issue, your opinion and feedback are welcomed by April 15, 2009 when the ExCo will meet in Seoul in conjunction with the 4th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology.

4. Editorial issues

As you might have noticed on the board page of the recent issues of Clinical Neurophysiology (CLINPH), Dr. Matthew Kiernan of Sydney, Dr. Craig Tenke of New York, and Professor Ulf Ziemann of Frankfurt joined the Editorial Board as Associate Editors, and there will be some replacements. Some of the Editorial Board members whose service has exceeded 6 years will also be replaced.

So far the Italian Society and the Japanese Society have adopted CLINPH as their official journals with mandatory subscription of the printed as well as online journals. Recently the Italian Society changed the system to the online only subscription. Some other societies are also planning on adopting CLINPH as their official journal with mandatory online subscription.

5. Issues related to publication

Sponsored subscription is a system launched during the Fiscal Period 1997 – 2001 to provide the financially disadvantaged societies with free journals. Recently the secretariat of IFCN has made an attempt to contact all sponsored subscribers to check how the journal is being used, but only a minority have responded. We will continue this system until 2009 to only those subscribers who have responded, and thereafter we will discuss whether we should launch the new system or not.

Regular subscription to the journal has so far been handled by the IFCN secretariat, but from now on the renewal and collection of subscription fee will be arranged by Elsevier. It was also agreed that the electronic access to CLINPH is to be through Science Direct rather than through the IFCN website.

6. Financial issues

The finances of IFCN still remain healthy in spite of the recent world economic downturn. However, this does put us under constraint and it is anticipated that the next couple of years will be financially tight. In addition to the significant increases in support for the Chapters that were agreed to in Edinburgh, the ExCo has resolved on a tentative basis to pay for abstract publication related to the Chapter meetings. In addition, funds have been set aside for a scholarship program (see 7 below).

7. International scholarship for young investigators

A project for supporting two scholarships annually starting in 2009 was launched. This is to support young researchers of developing areas who wish to receive training in clinical neurophysiology or to do research abroad with approximately 25,000 USD for each. The detail information is available on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>).

8. Amendment of IFCN rules

Amendment of rules approved by the previous General Assembly meeting in Edinburgh has been filed with the Canadian Minister of Industry. Further amendment of IFCN Statutes related to the payment of annual dues and eligibility for candidacy and voting for ExCo officers, and of the ICNS By-Laws were all approved by the IFCN Rules Committee and the IFCN ExCo, and will be distributed to Delegates for voting at the next appropriate opportunity.

9. History of IFCN

As we have reported in the previous ExCo reports, Professor Marc Nuwer and Professor Carl Lucking are preparing a draft for a book "History of IFCN" by adding the new materials from 1982 onward to the book "Wave Length. A history of the IFSECN" which was written by Dr. William Cobb and distributed to the participants to the ICCN held in London, UK in 1985. The new soft covered book

will be handed to all the participants at the time of the ICCN2010 (Kobe), and the hard covered book will be published as Supplement Series of CLINPH. If any of you have important or interesting photographs concerning the IFCN history, you are encouraged to contact the IFCN secretariat (shudson@venuewest.com), or directly either Professor Nuwer (mrn@ucla.edu) or Professor Luecking (c.h.luecking@gmx.de).

10. IFCN guidelines

The guidelines on SEP edited by Professor Giorgio Cruccu appeared in the August 2008 issue of CLINPH, and those on ERP edited by Dr. Connie Duncan will be published shortly. The guidelines on VEP/ERG edited by Professor Graham Holder and those on TMS ‘how to do it’ edited by Professor Hartwig Siebner are in preparation. According to the proposal by Dr. Donald Schomer of American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS), the guidelines on ‘monitoring EEG activity for pre-surgical epilepsy work up’ will be developed jointly by ACNS and IFCN. In addition, based on the IFCN sponsored conference held in Italy in March 2008, an IFCN document on TMS ‘safety issues’ is being edited by Dr. Simone Rossi and will be available shortly.

11. Related international meetings

a. 5th Latin-American Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

This successful meeting was held in Puebla, Mexico on October 7-11, 2008 with Dr. Jaime Ramos-Peek as the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee and Dr. Armando Tello as the Chair of the International Scientific Committee. All the IFCN ExCo members participated in the scientific sessions.

b. 4th Asian-Oceanian Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

This meeting will be held in Seoul on April 15-18, 2009 with Professor Kwang-Woo Lee as the convener. All the IFCN ExCo members will participate in the scientific sessions of the meeting.

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

This meeting will be held in Kobe, Japan from October 28 to November 1, 2010. The local organizing committee is formed by Hiroshi Shibasaki as the convener, Professor Ryuji Kaji as the Secretary General, Professor Shin-ichi Niwa as the Treasurer, and Professor Ryusuke Kakigi as the Chairperson of Scientific Program

Committee. Five IFCN officers (Hiroshi Shibasaki, Reinhard Dengler, Andrew Eisen, Francois Mauguiere and David Burke) will serve as the members of the International Organizing Committee. The Presidents and Liaison Officers of all the IFCN Chapters will serve as members of the International Scientific Program Committee. The Second Announcement will be circulated in July 2009. Call for papers will start in October 2009 with the deadline for abstract submission in January 2010. The deadline for early registration will be February 25, 2010, and that for the ordinary registration and hotel booking will be August 26, 2010. The Organizing Committee of International Congress (OCIC) will meet in Kobe on April 19, 2009. IFCN will support fellowship for young investigators (age 40 or below) whose abstracts have been accepted for presentation. The congress website is available at (<http://www.iccn2010kobe.com>).

12. Equipment donations

As reported in the previous ExCo report, the ExCo launched a program for facilitating the exchange of used neurophysiological equipments. The IFCN is responsible only for distribution of this information and for facilitating contacts between persons and institutions via its website. An ExCo officer in charge of this project is Professor Daniel Cibils (drcibils@montevideo.com.uy), and the information can be found on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>) or also by contacting the IFCN secretariat (shudson@venuewest.com).

13. Obituary for Professor Martin Halliday and Professor Nelly Chiofalo

Obituaries for Professor Martin Halliday of British Society and Professor Nelly Chiofalo of Chilean Society who passed away in spring 2008 were published in the September 2008 issue of CLINPH.

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. Therefore, please inform the IFCN secretariat, Ms. Stephanie Hudson (shudson@venuewest.com), of any change in the officers of your society or chapters.

December 1, 2008

Hiroshi Shibasaki

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