

Report from IFCN Executive Committee (December 2009)

This is to follow up our previous report circulated in June 2009, in order to report what has occurred since then and will be considered in the near future. In the meantime, we had the seventh Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting in a form of e-mail conference in October 2009. The ExCo did not actually meet on this occasion due to a limited number of items to be discussed urgently and this saved considerably in terms of travel expenses.

1. Nomination and election of the next ExCo officers

Following the first round of ballot voting by member societies which elected Professor Paolo Rossini of Rome as the President-elect and Professor Reinhard Dengler of Hannover as the Treasurer-elect, call for nominations for the office of Secretary was started in July 2009 and two candidates were nominated. As the result of the second round ballot voting, Professor Daniel Cibils of Montevideo was elected as the Secretary-elect. Based on these outcomes, call for nominations for the office of two-Members-at-Large started in early November 2009, and ballot voting will start soon.

2. Officers of Chapters

Latin American Chapter recently elected Professor Renato J. Verdugo of Santiago de Chile as the new President and Professor Jorge Gutierrez of Cali, Colombia-ACME as the new Treasurer. Currently officers of Asia-Oceanian Chapter are Professor Rawiphan Witoonpanich of Bangkok as the President and Professor Kwang-Woo Lee of Seoul as the Secretary/Treasurer. Officers of European Chapter are Professor Paolo Rossini of Rome as the President and Professor Luis Garcia-Larrea of Lyon as the Secretary/Treasurer. Officers of North American Chapter are Professor Donald B Sanders of Durham, Professor M. George Elleker of Edmonton, Professor John S. Ebersole of Chicago, and Professor Andrew A. Eisen of Vancouver. Contact address of these officers are available on the IFCN website <http://www.ifcn.info>. Please contact these officers of your region if you have any questions or opinions.

3. Application for new IFCN membership

During the last 6 months, Society of Neurologists of Bangladesh led by Professor Aminur Rahman and Societe Guineenne de Neurologie led by Professor Abass Cisse

have applied for the new IFCN membership. Currently the constitutions of the two societies are being revised according to recommendation by the IFCN Rules Committee (Chairperson: Francois Mauguiere).

4. International scholarship for young investigators

A project for supporting two young researchers each year from financially disadvantaged countries who wish to receive training in clinical neurophysiology or to do research in the distinguished institutions abroad with approximately 25,000 USD was launched in the year 2009. Out of 10 applications, Dr. N. Rustamov of Azerbaijan and Dr. H. Muradyan of Armenia were chosen as the successful recipients of the scholarship, as reported in the last ExCo Report distributed in June 2009. Dr. Rustamov has completed EEG and epilepsy training in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, UK, and Dr. Muradyan has completed the training in EMG/nerve conduction study in the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Application for the year 2010 has been called since September 2009, and it will be closed on January 15, 2010 (<http://www.ifcn.info>).

5. Financial issues

The finances of IFCN still remain healthy in spite of the recent world economic recession. Chapter meetings are financially supported by IFCN through transfer of funds (USD 100,000.00 to each Chapter per fiscal period), and presently the cost of publication of abstracts of the Chapter meetings has also been directly supported by IFCN.

Thanks to the great diligence of our Treasurer, Andy Eisen, the IFCN has been kept in a good financial position, and he and Reinhard Dengler as the Treasurer-elect are expected to meet with the accountant, financial adviser, lawyer and bank officials in early 2010 to establish a smooth transition of the Treasurer's office. The intention is to keep everything "as is" as far as possible.

6. Editorial issues

A formal system for rotating Associate Editors and Editorial Board members of Clinical Neurophysiology has been instituted under the leadership of David Burke as the Editor-in-Chief. We now have seven Associate Editors; Dr. Matthew Kiernan of Sydney, Dr. Christian Krarup of Copenhagen, Dr. C.J. Stam of Amsterdam, Dr. Craig Tenke of New York, Dr. Yoshikazu Ugawa of Fukushima, Dr.

Josep Valls-Sole of Barcelona and Dr. Ulf Ziemann of Frankfurt as listed on the front page of the journal.

Two national societies, Italian Clinical Neurophysiology Society and Japanese Society of Clinical Neurophysiology have so far adopted Clinical Neurophysiology as an official journal of each society through mandatory subscription of all or a certain proportion of their members to the journal, but Japanese Society decided to stop the mandatory subscription from 2010 due to yearly increasing subscription fee. Italian Society has now subscribing online only. 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 is expected to adopt the journal as their official journals with the similar subscription system.

7. Issues related to publication

As explained in the last ExCo Report, a sponsored subscription involves a system, launched during the Fiscal Period 1997 – 2001, to provide the financially disadvantaged societies with free journals. We have decided to continue this system from 2010 onward by formulating the requirements for application. 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>).

8. IFCN guidelines and documents

IFCN guidelines on event-related potentials have been edited by Dr. Connie Duncan of Bethesda and was published in the 2009 November issue of Clinical Neurophysiology. The guidelines on visual evoked potentials and electroretinogram have been edited by Professor Graham Holder of London, UK and Professor Gastone Celesia of Chicago, and will be published before long. The guidelines on transcranial magnetic stimulation 'how to do it' is being edited by Dr. Hartwig Siebner of Copenhagen. The IFCN documents on transcranial magnetic stimulation 'safety issues' are based on the IFCN sponsored meeting held in Italy in March 2008 and were published by Dr. Simone Rossi as the editor in the 2009 December issue of Clinical Neurophysiology.

9. Related international meetings

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

This meeting will be held in Kobe, Japan from October 28 to November 1, 2010. The preparation for the meeting is going smoothly. The Second Announcement has been circulated in August 2009. Scientific program for all the invited speakers has been nearly completed, and application for the proposed workshop has been called and closed on December 10, 2009. There were 24 applications for the proposed workshops, and successful workshops will be announced by the Scientific Program Committee shortly. Call for poster presentation was started online on October 15, 2009 and will be closed on January 14, 2010. All the information is available on the Congress website (<http://www.iccn2010kobe.com>). The deadline for early pre-registration will be March 31, 2010, and that for the late pre-registration and hotel booking will be September 30, 2010.

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.

Young Investigators Award

More than 10 abstracts will be selected by the Scientific Program Committee and awarded. Those who wish to apply for this award should clearly indicate so when submitting the abstracts.

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, David Burke, by June 10, 2010.

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

Call for bidding for the 30th ICCN to be held in 2014 was distributed to all member societies and posted on the IFCN website on October 7, 2009. The deadline for the application is January 31, 2010. Application of your societies for this important meeting is welcomed.

10. Amendment of IFCN rules

Amendments of IFCN Statutes as well as of ICNS Statutes that have been agreed in the previous ExCo meetings and approved by the IFCN Rules Committee will be sent to member societies for ballot voting in January 2010. The details have been explained in the last ExCo Report distributed in June 2009.

As also explained in the last ExCo Report, according to the results of investigation by the IFCN Task Force that was formed in late 2008 for improving the current voting system of General Assembly, ExCo agreed to amend the weighting of the number of votes per society (IFCN Statutes Article 6.1) from the current 2, 3 and 4 to 1, 2 and 3 as shown below. The latter weighting system was thought to represent a higher ratio between the largest and smallest society than the former system. The new rule, if approved by the General Assembly, will be applied to both General Assembly and election from the next Fiscal Period. This issue will be discussed and voted in the General Assembly in Kobe in October 2010.

Article 6.1 (Composition of General Assembly)

The General Assembly is composed of the Executive Committee and the delegates and additional representatives of each member society, or their specified alternates. Each member society has one delegate that is the principal person serving as a liaison between the Federation and the member society. The number of additional representatives of each member society who are eligible to sit in the General Assembly corresponds to the number of dues-paying members of that society as follows:

Current:	1-99 members	1 additional representative
	100-399	2 additional representatives
	400 or more	3 additional representatives
New:	1-99 members	no additional members
	100-399	one additional member
	400 or more	two additional members

11. 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.

December 21, 2009



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