

## **Report from IFCN Executive Committee (June 2009)**

This is to follow up our previous report circulated in December 2008, in order to report what has occurred since then and will occur in the near future. In the meantime we had the sixth Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting on April 15, 2009 in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Oceanian Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology held in Seoul, Korea.

### **1. Nomination and election of the next ExCo officers**

In accordance with the IFCN Statutes Article 5.6-a, in February 2009 the Nomination Committee (Chairperson: François Mauguère) invited nominations from the member societies for the offices of President and Treasurer of the Fiscal Period 2011 - 2014, and two candidates for the President and three candidates for the Treasurer were nominated. As the results of ballot voting by member societies and ExCo members, in which the voting percentage turned out to be as high as 89 % of the total number of members eligible to vote, Professor Paolo Rossini of Rome was chosen as the President-elect and Professor Reinhard Dengler of Hannover was chosen as the Treasurer-elect. Based on the above outcome, call for nominations for the office of Secretary will start soon as the second round of the election.

### **2. Situations of clinical neurophysiology in Africa**

Thanks to the information provided by Professor Johan Aarli, the President of the World Federation of Neurology, attempts to contact several neurologists in Africa have been made by Hiroshi Shibasaki, and the current status of clinical neurophysiology was reported by Professor Amadou Gallo Diop of Dakar, Senegal and by Dr. James Johnston of Seattle who is familiar with the situation in Ethiopia. We are hoping to further explore the current situation there and to be of some help in promoting clinical neurophysiology in Africa, in relation to our ongoing projects including support of regional educational courses, International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS) which is a member society of IFCN and formed by individuals of countries that do not have an IFCN member society, sponsored subscription to our official journal Clinical Neurophysiology, equipment donation, IFCN scholarship for supporting young people to have training or research experiences abroad (see Item 3 for more information), and IFCN fellowship to attend the related international meetings.

### **3. 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 this year. There were 10 applications in the first round, and as the result of careful evaluation of the application materials by ExCo members, Dr. N. Rustamov of Azerbaijan and Dr. H. Muradyan of Armenia were chosen as the successful recipients of

the scholarship. Dr. Rustamov is expected to have EEG and epilepsy training in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, UK, and Dr. Muradyan is expected to have training in EMG/nerve conduction study in the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

#### **4. Financial issues**

The finances of IFCN still remain healthy in spite of the recent world economic recession. However, this does put us under constraint and it is anticipated that the next few years may be financially tight. However, there are early signs that the severe recession the world has witnessed may have bottomed and there is some optimism toward the end of this year. 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. The general policy for supporting the abstract publication requires further discussion and will be formulated by ExCo in the future.

#### **5. Editorial issues**

A formal system for rotating Associate Editors and Editorial Board members of Clinical Neurophysiology has been instituted, and the updated listing with new members will appear on the front page of each issue of the journal. In order to improve the language quality of articles published in Clinical Neurophysiology, a new system of 'post-acceptance language editing' will be adopted, in collaboration with Elsevier, for accepted papers considered by the editorial office to require language editing.

#### **6. Issues related to publication**

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>).

The book 'History of IFCN', being prepared by Professor Marc Nuwer of Los Angeles and Professor Carl H Luecking of Freiburg, will be provided to all participants in the 29<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (October 2010 in Kobe), and will be available online to all subscribers.

IFCN guidelines on event-related potentials have been edited by Dr. Connie Duncan of Bethesda and will be published in Clinical Neurophysiology shortly. The guidelines on visual evoked potentials and electroretinogram have been edited by Professor Graham Holder of London, UK and Dr. Gastone

Celestia 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 document on transcranial magnetic stimulation 'safety issues' is based on the IFCN sponsored meeting held in Italy in March 2008 and is under preparation by Dr. Simone Rossi of Siena and other participants in that meeting.

## **7. Related international meetings**

### **a. 4<sup>th</sup> Asian-Oceanian Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (AOCCN)**

This meeting was held in Seoul on April 15-18, 2009 with Professor Kwang-Woo Lee as the convener. The meeting was attended by more than 700 participants and was very successful. All the IFCN ExCo members participated in the scientific and social sessions.

### **b. 29<sup>th</sup> 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 although there is some difficulty in the fund-raising because of the current worldwide economic recession. Outline of the scientific sessions has been prepared by the domestic Scientific Program Committee (Chairperson: Professor Ryusuke Kakigi), and has been circulated to international members of the Committee, formed by Presidents and Liaison Officers of all four Chapters, in February 2009, and suggestions by the international members were taken into account as much as possible. The Organizing Committee of International Congress (OCIC) met in Kobe on April 19, 2009 (immediately after the 4-AOCCN as reported above). General plans for the congress, venue and meeting facilities, projected budget, and tentative scientific program were discussed in that meeting, and the meeting facilities and hotel rooms were inspected. Consequently the invited speaker candidates will receive invitations shortly. The Second Announcement will be circulated in July 2009. Call for papers will start in October 2009 with the middle of January 2010 set as the deadline for abstract submission. The deadline for early registration will be February 25, 2010, and that for the ordinary registration and hotel booking will be August 26, 2010. 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>).

## **8. Equipment donations**

This important project was launched in 2007. So far the program has not been successful due to various technical difficulties. However, this project is considered to be very important, and it will be continued under the leadership of Professor Daniel Cibils of Montevideo ([drcibils@montevideo.com.uy](mailto:drcibils@montevideo.com.uy)). Information can be found on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>) or by contacting the IFCN secretariat ([shudson@venuewest.com](mailto:shudson@venuewest.com)).

## **9. Task force for geographical balance**

As reported in the last ExCo Report circulated in December 2008, in order to explore this important

issue of geographical balance in relation to election of ExCo officers, a task force was formed by representatives from Chapters (Luis Garcia-Larrea, Donald Sanders, Jose Xavier de Castro, and Kwang-Woo Lee) and members of the IFCN Rules Committee (Francois Mauguiere, Marc Nuwer, James Colebatch, Ricardo Reisin, and Rawiphan Witoonpanich) in addition to the current ExCo members in November 2008. Mr. Roderick Kirkham, the IFCN legal consultant, served as the consultant for this task force. After careful discussion through e-mail communications, the task force made the following suggestions to the IFCN ExCo.

In relation to nomination:

The task force agreed to support the ExCo' proposal to change the geographical regions from the current two to four regions corresponding to the four Chapters (Asia-Oceania, Europe including Middle East and Africa, Latin America, and North America). The task force further agreed to modify the related rules (IFCN Statutes 5.6-a-iii) by adding two sentences; "No region should have more than two ExCo officers excluding the Editor-in-Chief" and "Each region should have at least one officer". As for the number of Members-at-Large, the task force agreed not to change the current number of two.

In relation to voting:

The task force agreed to change the current system of voting. The task force preferred the weighted system proportional to the size of member societies to 'one vote per society', and suggested the adoption of 1, 2 or 3 votes per society instead of the current weighting of 2, 3 or 4, because the ratio between the largest and smallest society is higher in the 1 – 3 system than in the 2 – 4 system. The task force agreed to apply the new voting system to both election and General Assembly.

#### **10. Amendment of IFCN rules to be proposed**

ExCo discussed the issue of geographical balance and election by taking the suggestions of the task force (see the above item 9) into consideration, and agreed to send out to member societies the following amendment of the IFCN Statutes Article 5.6-a-iii for mail voting, along with amendment of other issues related to the payment of annual dues and eligibility for candidacy and voting for ExCo officers, which have already been discussed in the previous ExCo meetings and reported in the ExCo Reports.

Current: (1) North and South America, Australasia and Japan and (2) Europe,  
Asia (except Japan) and Africa.

New: (1) Asia-Oceania, (2) Europe including Middle East and Africa, (3)  
Latin America and (4) North America.

Add: "No region should have more than two ExCo officers excluding the Editor-in-Chief."  
"Each region should have at least one elected officer."

As regards the voting system, 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. The new rule, if approved by the General Assembly, will be applied to both General Assembly and election, as it has been the case so far. This issue will be voted after discussion 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](mailto: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.

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