

Report from IFCN Executive Committee

The new Fiscal Period of IFCN started at the General Assembly held in conjunction with the 28th International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ICCN) in Edinburgh on September 14, 2006. Here we would like to report to the Delegates of member societies what has occurred since then and what your Executive has done and is planning. Some information is available also on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>).

1. Executive Committee (ExCo)

The current ExCo is formed by Hiroshi Shibasaki (Kyoto) as the President, Johannes Noth (Aachen) as the Secretary, Andrew Eisen (Vancouver) as the Treasurer, Francois Manguiere (Lyon) as the Past President, Mark Hallett (Bethesda) as the Editor-in-Chief, and Daniel Cibils (Montevideo) and Kerry Mills (London, UK) as the Members-at-Large. We had the first meeting of this ExCo immediately after the General Assembly on September 14, 2006 in Edinburgh.

Election of Secretary

As I notified you on January 1, 2007, since Professor Johannes Noth recently 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. The deadline of the nomination is the end of January 2007, and we are hoping to elect the new Secretary by the end of March 2007. The nomination form should be sent directly to the Chairman of the Rules Committee, Professor Francois Manguiere (mauguier@univ-lyon1.fr).

New Editor-in-Chief

Professor Mark Hallett is going to complete his term as the Editor-in-Chief at the end of 2007. Therefore, as you have already been informed, we are now calling for the candidates of the next Editor-in-Chief. You can find the information about the application on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>). The deadline for the application is January 31, 2007, and the application form should be sent to the IFCN President (shib@kuhp.kyoto-u.ac.jp).

2. IFCN Secretariat

As you know, we have had our secretarial office in Concorde, UK since the beginning of the last Fiscal Period. As you have recently heard from Professor Andrew

Eisen, we found it important to have the secretariat at the domicile of one member of ExCo to allow for easy access and communication. After having looked at several possibilities, Venue West of Vancouver was chosen because it met our needs and budget best. Our contract with Venue West was signed on January 2, 2007 and will run through 2011. We are planning on moving all materials from Concorde within a short time period.

Contact details for Venue West are:

Venue West Conference Services Ltd.

Suite 645 - The Landing

375 Water Street , Vancouver, B.C. , Canada V6B 5C6

Telephone: 1 (604) 681-5226

Facsimile: 1 (604) 681-2503

Email: congress@venuewest.com

Contact person: Peggy Shepard (pshepard@venuewest.com)

3. Member Societies

Now 58 societies from 55 countries form IFCN. The larger number of societies than that of countries is due to the fact that three countries; Belgium, Colombia and United States, have two societies each belonging to IFCN. In the ExCo meeting held in Edinburgh, the possibility of inviting new member societies and what we can do for those societies that have recently been lost to contact have been discussed. Possible new candidate societies include Ireland, Iceland, Georgia, Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Ecuador, Honduras, and Venezuela. Since Iceland has been a member society of European Chapter but is not yet a member society of IFCN, the Iceland Society is encouraged to become a member society of IFCN. Representatives from Georgia and Pakistan attended the Edinburgh meeting. Since then, we had some contact with Dr. Ammar E.M. Tahir of Sudan, Dr. Saeed Bohlega of Saudi Arabia, and Dr. Khean Jin Goh of Malaysia.

For the recent years, societies of Greece, Iran, Slovak Republic, Jordan, and China have been lost to contact. However, it was nice to have Professor Cui Liying, the Delegate of the Chinese Society, in the Edinburgh ICCN. Dr. Shahriar Nafissi represented the Iranian Branch of the Iranian Neurological Association in the Edinburgh meeting.

Contact with the possible new societies as well as the lost-to-contact societies is

supposed to be made through the liaison officers of each Chapter except for Africa (see 4. Chapters) or directly to the ExCo. If you are aware of any neighboring society that is interested in the IFCN affiliation, please let us know.

New Zealand joined the Australian Society and the society is now called Australian-New Zealand Association of Clinical Neurophysiologists.

International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS)

In relation to the possible new member societies, a society is required to have a minimum of 10 members to apply for IFCN affiliation (IFCN By-Laws 1.1.1). ICNS is a society established during the previous Fiscal Period for those clinical neurophysiologists of a country which does not have a society of more than 10 members. Each individual can apply for the membership of ICNS by writing to the President of ICNS, Professor Daniel Cibils (drcibils@montevideo.com.uy) of Montevideo, Uruguay. The application form is available on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>). Once the number of members exceeds 10, then that society can apply for the IFCN membership. Therefore, if you are aware of any clinical neurophysiologists in your neighboring countries who wish to be affiliated with IFCN but do not have a society of more than 10 members, please provide him/her with this information.

4. Chapters

There are three Chapters and one region in IFCN. The current officers of each Chapter are as follows.

European Chapter

President: Professor Paolo Rossini (Rome)

Secretary/Treasurer: Professor Luis Garcia-Larrea (Lyon)

Liaison officer: Professor Kerry Mills (London, UK) (prof.krmills@mac.com)

Latin American Chapter

President: Professor Jose H. Xavier de Castro (Brazil)

Secretary/Treasurer: Professor Renato Verdugo (Chile)

Liaison officer: Professor Daniel Cibils (Montevideo)

(drcibils@montevideo.com.uy)

Asian-Oceanian Chapter

President: Professor Rawiphan Witoonpanich (Bangkok)

Secretary/Treasurer: Professor Kwang-Woo Lee (Seoul)

Liaison officer: Professor Hiroshi Shibasaki (Kyoto)

(shib@kuhp.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

North America

There are three member societies in North America; American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM), American Clinical Neurophysiology society (ACNS) and Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists. ExCo proposed to the three societies to form North American Chapter, but as the result of recent telephone conference arranged by Professor Mark Hallett, the issue remains to be discussed further.

5. Committees

Rules Committee

The new committee is formed by Professor Francois Mauguere (Lyon) as the Chairman, Professor Marc Nuwer (Los Angeles), Professor Jim Colebatch (Sydney), Professor Ricardo Reisin (Buenos Aires) and Professor Rawiphan Witoonpanich (Bangkok).

Nomination Committee

The chairman is Professor Francois Mauguere (Lyon), and other members will be elected by ExCo soon.

Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

This committee has been chaired by Professor Carl Lucking (Freiburg) for a number of years. It was agreed in the Edinburgh ExCo meeting that there is no need for long range planning at this moment and the committee would be reformed as necessary in the future. Sponsored subscriptions to the official journal have been taken care of by Professor Lucking, but from now on Professor Andrew Eisen as the IFCN Treasurer will deal with this issue.

Organizing Committee of International Congress (OCIC)

Modification of the Article of the IFCN Statutes regarding this committee (IFCN Statutes 7.1) was approved in the Edinburgh General Assembly. In addition to the four ExCo members (President, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer), the Editor-in-Chief

was included in the new committee. To keep balance, the committee members from the local society were increased from three to four. Thus, the OCIC for the next ICCN to be held in Kobe, Japan in 2010 is comprised of Professor Hiroshi Shibasaki, Professor Francois Mauguere, the new IFCN Secretary (to be elected), Professor Andrew Eisen and the new Editor-in-Chief from ExCo, and Professor Hiroshi Shibasaki (Convener), Professor Ryuji Kaji (Secretary General), Professor Shin-ichi Niwa (Treasurer) and Professor Ryusuke Kakigi (Program Committee Chair) from the Japanese Society.

6. Plan of international meetings

The next ICCN and Chapter meetings are scheduled as follows.

5th Latin American Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

March 11 – 14, 2008, Varadero Beach, Cuba

Convener: Professor Calixto Machado

13th European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

May 4 – 8, 2008, Istanbul, Turkey

Convener: Professor Onder Us

4th Asian-Oceanian Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

April 15 – 18, 2009, Seoul, Korea

Convener: Professor Kwang-Woo Lee

29th International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (29-ICCN)

October 28 – November 2, 2010, Kobe, Japan

Convener: Professor Hiroshi Shibasaki

7. IFCN sponsored meetings

International Consensus Meeting for Electrodiagnostic Criteria for

Diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

This meeting was planned by the previous ExCo and took place in Awaji, Japan on December 3 - 5, 2006 with Professor Ryuji Kaji and Professor Andrew Eisen as organizers.

Clinical Neurophysiology Symposium in conjunction with 30th Annual

Meeting of Taiwan Neurological Society

April 7 – 8, 2007, Taipei, Taiwan

Convener: Professor Yang-Chyuan Chang

Workshop on Clinical Neurophysiology

April 13 – 15, 2007, Bangalore, India

Convener: Professor Mustare Veerendrakumar

Neurophysiologic Monitoring Meeting

April 19 – 22, 2007, Montevideo, Uruguay

Convener: Professor Daniel Cibils

Financial support of meetings from IFCN

Financial support of the Chapter meetings as well as the IFCN sponsored meetings will be provided through the Treasurer of each Chapter except for North America (see 4. Chapters). Each Chapter is entitled to receive 100,000 USD per Fiscal Period (between now and the end of 2010). If you are interested in organizing an educational course or workshop in your region, please contact the liaison officer of each Chapter (see 4. Chapters).

8. Amendment of IFCN Statutes and By-Laws

In accordance with the incorporation of IFCN under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act, the IFCN Statutes were largely re-structured, and the Statutes have already been approved by the General Assembly by mail ballot during the previous Fiscal Period. In the Edinburgh General Assembly, some amendments were proposed by the Rules Committee and approved. The main amendment was the change in the composition of OCIC (see 5. Committees).

Accordingly the By-Laws were also re-structured and approved by the Edinburgh General Assembly. The main changes included removal of all items related to the conduct of the meeting of the Council, change in the procedure to approve the minutes of General Assembly, and modification of the application procedure for the ICNS membership. Previously the minutes of the General Assembly were not officially approved until the next General Assembly meeting. In the new By-Laws, the minutes can be approved by the Delegates of member societies by e-mail, fax or airmail.

9. IFCN Guidelines

The process of revision of the IFCN guidelines is being supervised by Professor Paolo Rossini. The guideline of somatosensory evoked potentials will be edited Professor Dr. Giorgio Cruccu, that of visual evoked potentials and electroretinogram by Professor Graham Harding, and that of event-related potentials by Dr. Connie Duncan.

10. Other issues

Detail information related to finances of IFCN can be obtained from the IFCN Treasurer, Professor Andrew Eisen (eisen@interchange.ubc.ca). Canadian law dictates that we post the annual audited statement on the IFCN website within a short time of previous year end. Issues related to publication can be obtained from the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Mark Hallett (hallettm@ninds.nih.gov). If you have any other questions or opinions, please let us know.

January 10, 2007

Hiroshi Shibasaki, MD, PhD

IFCN President