Report of the 29th International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

1. Outline of the congress

The 29th International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ICCN2010) was held at Kobe International Conference Center and Kobe Portopia Hotel, Kobe, Japan from Thursday, October 28 to Monday, November 1, 2010. The congress was co-organized by three groups, International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (IFCN), Japanese Society of Clinical Neurophysiology (JSCN), and Science Council of Japan (SCJ) which belongs to the Japanese Cabinet. According to the IFCN Statutes Article 7.2, the Organizing Committee of the International Congress (OCIC) was formed of Hiroshi Shibasaki (President), Reinhard Dengler (Secretary), David Burke (Editor-in-Chief), Francois Mauguiere (Past President) and Andrew Eisen (Treasurer) representing IFCN, and Hiroshi Shibasaki (Convener), Ryuji Kaji (Secretary General), Shin-Ichi Niwa (Treasurer) and Ryusuke Kakigi (Scientific Program Committee Chair) representing the National Society, JSCN. All members of the OCIC met at the congress venue in Kobe on April 19, 2009, and approved the draft of the program and budget proposed by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) after discussion. According to the IFCN Statutes Article 7.4, the LOC recommended John Desmedt (Brussels), Jun Kimura (Iowa City), Carl Luecking (Freiburg), Marc Nuwer (Los Angeles), Teruo Okuma (Tokyo) and Nobuo Yanagisawa (Tokyo) as candidates for Honorary Presidents, and the proposal was approved by OCIC. However, John Desmedt and Teruo Okuma passed away before the congress.

The LOC was formed, in addition to the above four domestic members of the OICC, of Kimiyoshi Arimura, Masayuki Baba, Hidenao Fukuyama, Isao Hashimoto, Takao Hashimoto, Koichi Hirata, Akio Ikeda, Katsunori Ikoma, Yoji Ishiyama, Makiko Kaga, Fumio Kanda, Yoichi Katayama, Akio Kimura, Toshihiko Kinosita, Yoshihiko Koga, Nobuo Kohara, Tetsuo Komori, Yoshiyuki Kuroiwa, Satoshi Kuwabara, Masato Matsuura, Takashi Nagamine, Ken Nagata, Nobukazu Nakasato, Kenji Nakashima, Hirokazu Oguni, Hisaki Ozaki, Ken-ichi Shinomiya, Masahiro Sonoo, Hisao Tachibana, Toshikazu Tani, Shozo Tobimatsu, Sadatoshi Tsuji, Yoshikazu Ugawa, and Shuhei Yamaguchi. All members of the Committee met once a year in conjunction with the annual congress of JSCN, and otherwise discussion was made by frequent e-mail communication or by telephone. However, representative members of LOC met as necessary on a number of occasions.

The ICCN2010 was preceded by International Conference of Single Fiber EMG and Quantitative EMG (Convener: Kimiyoshi Arimura) for two days with one day overlap on
the registration day of ICCN2010 (October 28), and the ICCN2010 was followed by the 40th Annual Congress of Japanese Society of Clinical Neurophysiology (JSCN40, Convener: Ryuji Kaji) for two days with one day overlap on the last day of ICCN2010 (November 1).

2. Registration and attendance

Pre-registration was accepted online from October 15, 2009 to September 30, 2010. The professional congress organizer (PCO) (see 8. Congress management) suddenly changed the online registration system in April 2009, and the newly adopted system caused a significant problem in the registration of invited speakers for unknown reason. This unexpected situation forced us to give up the online registration and instead to do manual registration based on the information obtained from each invited speaker by e-mail or FAX. The registration fee was 35,000 JPY (20,000 for students) for early pre-registration, 40,000 JPY (22,000 for students) for late pre-registration, and 45,000 JPY (25,000 for students) for onsite registration. The total number of registered participants was 1,661 including 99 accompanying persons, 889 from abroad and 772 domestic. The number of students/trainees among them was 301. Fifty-seven percent of the total attendants registered at the reception desk on the day of Opening Ceremony, 26% on the first day of the congress, 10% on the second day, 5% on the third day, and 2% on the last day.

3. Scientific program

The Scientific Program Committee, formed by Ryusuke Kakigi (Chairperson) and 110 domestic members in December 2006, began its activities in summer 2008 by collecting candidate topics and speakers, and the initial draft of the program was prepared by February 2008. According to the suggestions by the IFCN Executive Committee (ExCo), the Scientific Committee invited Chairpersons and Liaison Officers of all IFCN Chapters, namely Paolo M. Rossini (Italy), Kerry R. Mills (UK), Jose H. Xavier de Castro (Brazil), Daniel Cibils (Uruguay), Rawiphan Witoonpanich (Thailand), Hiroshi Shibasaki (Japan), Donald B. Sanders (USA), and Andrew Eisen (Canada) as the international members. The draft of the scientific program was circulated to the international members for comments and suggestions in March 2008. The final draft was presented to the OCIC meeting (April 19, 2009) and was approved after partial modification.

The scientific program was intended to cover all possible fields of clinical neurophysiology including the borderline and other related specialty fields. As for the topics related to recent advance in electrophysiological principles and technologies, special emphasis was put on threshold electrotonus and axonal excitability, neuromuscular channel disorders, botulinum treatment, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and
intracortical inhibition, repetitive TMS and cortical plasticity, deep brain recording and deep brain stimulation (DBS), functional recovery and rehabilitation, clinical application of magnetoencephalography (MEG), cortical high frequency oscillations, cortical DC potentials, event-related desynchronization/synchronization (ERD/ERS), near infra-red spectroscopy (NIRS), functional neuroimaging vs. electrophysiology, brain-computer interface, mismatch negativity, basal ganglia circuit and oscillations, intraoperative and ICU monitoring, and vestibular function tests. Among the topics related to neuroscience, working memory and social brain, language, face perception and recognition, neurophysiology of pain and itch, brain development and neurophysiology, sensori-motor integration, inter-areal functional coupling, and selective attention were focused upon. As the more clinically oriented topics, physiological evaluation of psychiatric diseases, cognitive disorders, epilepsy, sleep disorders and sleep monitoring, Parkinson disease, involuntary movements, motor neuron disease, peripheral neuropathy, muscle disease, somatosensory function, visual function, auditory function, electrophysiological tests of cranial nerves, spinal reflex, gait disturbance, sphincter functions, ultrasound of nerve and muscle, and study of neuromuscular junction were also included. As for the practice courses, Hands-on-Workshops on EEG, EMG-Nerve Conduction Study, and TMS were given free of charge.

For the IFCN Names Lectures, Francois Mauguiere gave Adrian Lecture, Hans O. Luders gave Berger Lecture, and Paolo M. Rossini gave Kugelberg Lecture. For this congress, we added three more lectures as the ICCN2010 Named Lectures, Buchthal Lecture by Frank Lehmann-Horn, Halliday Lecture by Risto Naatanen, and Narabayashi Lecture by Ann Graybiel. There were 24 Special Lectures, 52 Symposia and 11 Workshops. We invited 194 speakers from abroad and 148 domestic, both including chairpersons. Furthermore, the Committee invited proposal of other important topics in October 2009 and received 24 applications. As a result of careful evaluation by the Committee, seven of them were accepted as Proposed Workshops after some modification.

Free communications were called only for poster presentation. Online abstract submission was accepted from October 15, 2009 and the deadline was initially set to January 14, 2010. However, due to a relatively small number of submissions, the deadline was extended twice so that the final deadline was April 30, 2010. As a result, 941 abstracts were received. After review by the Committee, some authors were advised to revise their abstracts and then all of the abstracts were accepted. Because of the time limit of submission of abstracts for printing, 935 abstracts were printed in the abstract book, and 933 posters were listed in the program. Finally, however, 815 posters were
presented. In this congress, a unique style of Talking Poster was adopted in which all poster presenters gave three minutes oral presentation by using PowerPoint before free discussion. In order to avoid the congestion at the slide reception site, the PowerPoint materials for Talking Poster were submitted to the congress secretariat in advance. As a result, 762 authors made the oral presentation in addition to poster display.

In this congress, active participation of young investigators was encouraged. In addition to the IFCN Fellowship, Young Investigator Award of 500 USD each was given to 20 successful poster presenters (age below 40) in the Closing Ceremony. The recipients were selected by the Program Committee out of 166 candidates who applied for the award at the time of abstract submission. The successful award recipients were Yumi Fujimaki (Japan), Hiroshi Fujioka (Japan), Federica Giambattistelli (Italy), Shizuka Horige (Japan), Giacomo Koch (Italy), Wenqi Mao (China), Daisuke Matsuyoshi (Japan), Sonoko Misawa (Japan), Takenobu Murakami (Germany), Tiina M. Nasi (Finland), Yasuki Noguchi (Japan), Rieko Okada (Japan), Naofumi Otsuru (Japan), Susanna B. Park (Australia), Miia Pitkonen (Finland), Julia C. Restle (Germany), Ashleigh E. Smith (Australia), Giulia Varotto (Italy), Takao Yamasaki (Japan), and Takufumi Yanagisawa (Japan).

The IFCN Fellowship was awarded to 85 poster presenters below age 40 who applied to the President of each National Society or International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS) and whose names were proposed to IFCN by each Society. Initially 96 applicants were chosen to receive the award, but 11 of them could not attend the congress mainly for financial reason. Finally, 20 poster presenters from Japan received 500 USD each, 11 from Asia-Oceania other than Japan received 750 USD each, and 54 from other regions received 1,000 USD each.

4. **Financial support of invited speakers**

Registration fee was waived for invited speakers from abroad, but no financial support for travel or accommodations was provided, with some exceptions regarding the hotel expense. Instead they received a relatively small amount of money from LOC as honorarium/reimbursement depending on the role played by each speaker in the congress and the country of residence. Members of IFCN ExCo did not receive any honorarium/reimbursement even if they were the invited speakers. As regards the withholding tax for the honorarium/reimbursement, the convener of the congress consulted certified tax accountants as well as the National Tax Administration Agency of Japan in advance. As a result, for those recipients possessing
passport of nations that have no tax treaty with Japan or have tax treaty with special stipulations like USA, UK, France and Australia, the LOC actually paid 20% of the face value to the local tax office. For those recipients possessing passport of nations that have tax treaty without special stipulations, the LOC submitted just the signed document of each recipient to the local tax office.

For domestic speakers, no financial support was provided by the LOC at all, and they paid the registration fee if they were the members of JSCN. Only for those domestic speakers who were not members of JSCN, the registration fee was waived.

5. Financial report

Finance and Fund Raising Committee was formed by Shin-ichi Niwa (Chairperson) and 107 domestic members in December 2006. This congress received a relatively large financial support from each of the three co-organizers, 310,000 USD from IFCN including 100,000 USD for the IFCN Fellowship, 253,000 USD from JSCN, and 166,000 USD from SCJ. The largest source of income came from the registration fee of 567,500 USD. By special effort of the hard-working Committee members, other income depended on donation from industries, sponsorship for the sponsored symposium and luncheon seminar, exhibition, and support from the foundations affiliated with Kobe City.

The main expenditures included hiring the congress venue, use of audiovisual equipment and the related professional service, receptions and banquets, honorarium/reimbursement for invited speakers, secretariat and on-site expenses, and profit of PCO. Thanks to attendance of a relatively large number of delegates in spite of the decreased JPY/USD rate, the financial account of this congress was healthy. The financial results will be audited and the profit will be subjected to the income tax according to the Japanese law by the end of March when the fiscal year ends. Finally, the surplus, if any, will be returned to the organizers of this congress.

6. Publication and announcement

The Committee for Publication and Announcement was formed of Shozo Tobimatsu (Chairperson), Takashi Nagamine (Vice Chairperson) and 5 other members. The ICCN2010 website was set up in January 2007. Ten thousand copies of the First Announcement were printed and circulated to the Delegates and/or secretarial offices of all member societies of IFCN and all individual members of JSCN in January 2008. The Announcement was made on the IFCN website in February 2008, and on the Yellow Pages of Clinical Neurophysiology in August 2008. The Second Announcement was distributed to the Delegates and/or secretarial offices of all member societies and all members of JSCN.
in September 2009, and likewise the Third Announcement in February 2010. Since the
deadline of abstract submission was extended twice (see 3. Scientific program), the change
was announced each time on the congress website.

An electronic file of all abstracts was submitted to Elsevier on August 17, 2010, and 1,600
copies were printed as a Supplement issue of Clinical Neurophysiology with financial
support from IFCN. All registered participants received the printed copy at the congress
site. Since it became clear during the congress that the number of abstract books was not
sufficient, CD copies were immediately prepared by the LOC with agreement of Elsevier
and given to the participants who registered on the last day of the congress. For the
subscribers of the Journal who did not attend the congress, the printed copy was not
provided and only electronic version was made available.

Program book and program at-a-glance were edited by the Committee from June 2010,
and 1,700 copies were printed by a printing company in Japan shortly before the congress so
that all registered participants could receive the copy at the registration desk.

The book ‘Wave Length and Action Potentials: History of the IFCN’ written by the two
previous IFCN Presidents, Carl Luecking and Marc Nuwer and printed as a Supplement
issue of Clinical Neurophysiology was also handed to all registered participants. In this
book, the history of IFCN from 1982 onward was added to the contents of the book ‘Wave
Length: A History of the IFSECN’ written by W.A. Cobb and distributed to the participants
at the ICCN held in 1985 in London, UK. Since the package of this book was found to be
shipped from Netherlands by miscommunication between the publisher and the printing
company, another set of 1,500 copies had to be re-printed and sent to Kobe by air.

7. IFCN activities during the congress

The IFCN ExCo (2007-2010) held its last meeting for five hours just before the Opening
Ceremony on October 28, and the new ExCo held its first meeting for three hours on the last day
of the congress. Chapter meetings of Asian-Oceania, Europe, and Latin America, each lasting
one hour, were held simultaneously in parallel on the second day of the congress. The General
Assembly Meeting of three hours’ duration was held on the third day of the congress, being
served with light lunch. In the General Assembly Meeting, following reports of IFCN officers,
the proposed amendment of IFCN rules regarding the change in the geographical regions and
methods of voting and election was discussed and approved by voting. The site of the next
ICCN in 2014 was voted and Berlin was chosen. The Associate Editors of CLINPH met early in
the morning on the first day of the congress, and the Editorial Board Meeting was held later on
the same day.

M.A.B. Brazier Award and W.A. Cobb Award were given to Dr. S. Vucic (Sydney) and Dr.
J. Jabobs (Freiburg), respectively. They were selected by the Editorial Board of Clinical Neurophysiology among the papers accepted or published in the Journal during 12 months before this congress. On the last day of the congress, they gave award lectures in a special session and received the award from Elsevier with attendance of the IFCN President and Editor-in-Chief.

8. Congress management

Management of the congress before and during the meeting was done in the secretarial office of a Japanese PCO (JTB Communications previously called JCOM) under the leadership of the Secretarial and Congress Management Committee. The Committee was formed of the Chairperson (Ryuji Kaji), three Vice Chairpersons (Takashi Nagamine, Nobuo Kohara and Kotaro Asanuma) and 26 other members. The Committee encountered so many problems throughout the preparation of the congress, and the Committee members had to keep close eyes on every single step and procedure. The Committee members tried to carefully check language of important e-mail messages to be sent to the delegates, but still there have been significant problems in communications. Just before the congress, the convener and the Committee members inspected the list of expected participants and the projected income/expenditure on a number of occasions. On the day before the registration, the convener and the Committee members checked details of all important documents to be handed to the invited speakers at the registration.

9. Exhibition

Exhibition Committee was formed of Koichi Hirata (Chairperson) and 15 other members. Exhibitors were widely invited, and as a result 29 industries and 8 publishers/PCOs participated in the exhibition.

10. Ceremony, dinner and social program

The Hospitality Committee was formed of Nobuo Kohara (Chairperson), Fumio Kanda (Vice Chairperson) and 14 other members most of whom were spouses of the LOC members.

In the Opening Ceremony, the participants were welcomed by classical play of Japanese koto music. Hiroshi Shibasaki, as the convener of ICCN2010 as well as the President of IFCN, made an opening remark. It was followed by an address by Dr. Ichiro Kanazawa, President of SCJ and Dr. Sadatoshi Tsuji, President of JSCN. A welcome message by Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Naoto Kan, was read by Master of Ceremony (Ryuji Kaji). Special Lecture on History of IFCN was delivered by Carl Luecking and Marc Nuwer, and
an obituary remark for late John Desmedt was made by Francois Mauguiere. Finally, a puppet show was performed by Awaji-Ningyo-Joururi. The Opening Ceremony was followed by Welcome Reception. At the beginning of the Reception, two barrels of local sake were opened by invited guests who wore Japanese Happi coat.

In the Congress Dinner held in Portopia Hotel by inviting delegates of member societies, some of the invited speakers and the LOC members on the second day, Dr. Haruo Uesugi, who is a professional pianist and who is also a neurologist and even presented a poster in this congress, played piano for the guests. Hiroshi Shibasaki presented a CD containing a collection of interesting photos related to IFCN history. In the Gala Dinner held in Hotel Okura Kobe on the third day of the congress, a kotist, Miss Nozomi Miyanishi, played modern koto music composed or arranged by herself. In view of the fact that jazz in Japan started in Kobe, a jazz group of Kobe was invited to entertain the guests by playing fine pieces of music during the Dinner. Participants to the Gala Dinner were charged 10,000 JPY while the actual cost was much more than that. Farewell Party was held on the last day of ICCN2010 joined by the participants to JSCN40. A group of Awa Dance from Tokushima was invited and a number of guests joined the dance. All these musicians and players were selected by the convener and/or other Committee members, and the convener and his group went to see their live performance in advance and directly discussed details with the musicians and players. They also investigated all the ballrooms and sampled the meals to be served in the dinners.

Tours were mainly arranged by the travel company affiliated with the PCO with advice from the Committee members. A day tour to Tatsuno, an old castle town famous for light-colored soy source and a Japanese noodle called somen, was arranged by the Committee members who actually visited the sites in advance and sampled meals in the restaurant. A half-day tour in Kobe City, one day tour to Kyoto, and another one day tour to Nara were very popular and well attended.

‘Friendship salon’ was arranged mainly for accompanying persons on the second and third day of the congress where they were entertained by demonstration of ikebana (flower arranging) and its practice session. Mrs. Ingrid Luders, Grand Master of Ohara Ikebana in North and South America, served as its instructor. There was also a calligraphy lesson and practice session by Mrs. Kazuko Fujiwara, in which the accompanying persons were actually invited to write. In Chanoyu (Japanese tea ceremony) led by Mrs. Masako Kaji, matcha and Kyoto cake were served to visitors by wives and daughters of LOC members. In fact, a good number of participants also enjoyed making a cup of matcha by themselves.

It was our great pleasure and privilege to organize this important international congress,
and we would like to thank all of you for great cooperation and participation.

December 28, 2010

Hiroshi Shibasaki
Convener of ICCN2010
Chair of the Organizing Committee