

Chapter 12

1990–1993

President: Jun Kimura

The Executive Committee in this term consisted of Jun Kimura (President), John E. Desmedt (Past President), Barry Tharp (Secretary), Manuel Meyer (Treasurer), Jagjit Chopra and Jerzy Majkowsky (Members-at-Large), François Mauguière and Gastone G. Celesia (Editors-in-Chief). Seven Executive Committee meetings were held during this fiscal period.

This was the first term under the new name International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology and the first since decades without an EMG Commission. Both of the two Editors-in-Chief were full voting members of the Executive Committee. The movement toward greater numbers of regional meetings and regional presence continued, foreshadowing the eventual move toward Chapters. Rules continued to evolve to promote turnover among the Executive Committee members.

The previous IFCN 1990 General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro directed the Executive Committee to consider the holding Council and General Assembly meetings every 2 years at the occasion of both the International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology and the International Congress of EMG. The General Assembly had established new rules for the Executive Committee. Each Editor-in-Chief has one full vote. The Agenda for Council and General Assembly was to be sent to the Delegates at least 1 month prior to their meetings. Executive Committee meeting minutes were to be distributed to the Council members after approval by the Executive

Committee, so as to keep Delegates informed of Executive Committee activity.

The new name *International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology* (IFCN) replaced the original name *International Federation of Societies of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology* (IFSECN) at the beginning of this Fiscal Period at the 1990 General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro. The new name acknowledged the equal importance of EEG and EMG, as proposed by former president John Desmedt and others. The change reflects a unity to clinical electrophysiology as a discipline. Reflecting this spirit, the main quadrennial convention dealt with an increasing number of EMG materials. The scope of the midterm convention, previously known as the EMG Congress, likewise gradually was enlarged into a broader representation of techniques and applications. This trend in fact had already been noticeable at the 1987 EMG Congress in Sorrento and continued at the 1992 EMG Congress in Jerusalem.

The name of the journal *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology* remained unchanged because of the well established name as well as the great importance of preserving the high impact factor of the Journal. That remained the status of the journal name until the end of that decade.

Under the Chairmanship of John Desmedt, 17 books have been sent to nine countries. These have consisted primarily of *Handbook of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology* (Revised Series): *Volume 3, Evoked Potentials* (T.W. Picton, Editor). A Gift Committee has been established

to provide books to institutions which do not have funds and not for personal libraries.

In view of the challenge by the new imaging techniques (CT, MRI, SPECT, PET), all areas of clinical neurophysiology have to be actively promoted. Therefore, fellowship programmes and regional workshops were widely promoted.

The proposed budget for this Fiscal Period by the previous Treasurer was not accepted by the General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro. The new Executive Committee was instructed to develop a new budget and communicate it to each Delegate within 2 months.

1. Journal

The IFCN was fortunate to have two excellent Editors-in-Chief during these 4 years, Gastone G. Celesia for the Western Hemisphere office and François Mauguière for the European office. They maintained the high scientific and academic reputation of the journal. The journal expanded from 18 to 24 issues annually. Six issues each year were dedicated to a separate annual volume subtitled *EMG and Motor Control*. This was similar to the action 4 years earlier to add a six-issue volume named *Evoked Potentials*. Both separate volumes were published in parallel with the main journal, which had 12 issues and two volumes. Therefore, the journal reached four volumes and 24 issues each year.

The journal continued to experience an increasing number of submissions. Overall the submissions had been increasing at about 10% per year. The increase had been mainly in the European office. The number of manuscripts received at the two offices was approximately the same, at about 240 per year, whereas for several decades the Western Hemisphere office had had the larger volume. To put that number in context, this journal's manuscript volume in 1980 was about 240 for both editorial offices combined, so that the change represented a doubling of the submitted manuscript volume over a dozen years. The volume of submissions to the European office had increased by 50% over the previous

5 years. The acceptance rate dropped to about 45% in the early 1990s from 60% a decade earlier. These numbers showed how the journal gained popularity and remained highly competitive over the years. To keep the acceptance rate from dropping too low, the journal enlarged by adding pages, issues and volumes. While some viewed that acceptance rate as rather low, the selectivity of this journal improved its academic standing in Europe. At this point, it had achieved the status as the first choice when authors submit manuscripts in the field of Clinical Neurophysiology.

This favourable situation as a highly regarded, selective journal resulted in a need to increase the total number of pages printed per year. By increasing size, the journal was able to keep the backlog at Elsevier's publication desk to a minimal duration. This helped the turn-around time, which was also regarded as very desirable to keep low for a journal. Manuscripts were submitted to three reviewers by mail including at least one reviewer from the opposite geographic region, which entailed a degree of turn-around time delay. The mean delay between reception of manuscripts and the mailing of the first answer to authors had dropped to less than 2 months. For accepted manuscripts, the time from first submission to eventual transmission to the publisher was kept to only 4.5 months — about one-half the overall turn-around time achieved 4 years earlier. These were considered good by the standards of the day in the era before routine electronic communications.

As far as the types of studies published, from 1988 to 1992 the evoked and event-related potential manuscripts gradually decreased from 65% to 50% of manuscripts published. During that same interval, EEG remained around 20% of published manuscripts, and sleep was 10%. If one excluded technical reports, those two fields actually dropped during this period. Many technical papers were about new techniques in computerized EEG and mathematical models of EEG activity. Those technical EEG reports represented nearly 40% of the EEG submissions.

The launching of the *EMG and Motor Control* subtitle explained most of the positive trend in submissions. For the European office the EMG and topics of reflexes had grown to represent 25% of manuscripts in 1992 in comparison with only 15% of submissions in 1988. The Western hemisphere office saw a smaller rate of manuscripts of EMG and reflexes. If one included all EMG, reflexes, and motor control and motor evoked potential manuscripts, the sum came to be close to one-third of submissions.

The submission rate of evoked potential reports remained stable from 1988 to 1992. The different types of evoked potentials evolved over those years. The routine somatosensory, brainstem auditory and visual evoked potential reports were steadily decreasing. Magnetic evoked field reports had been increasing, especially for the auditory magnetic evoked field papers. Event-related potentials grew to 30% in 1992 from 12% in 1988. Most of these reports concerned studies in normal subjects.

Submission pressure was high in this field and it is a matter of editorial policy to decide whether the acceptance rate should be increased. Most of the papers with no direct relevance to human studies were not given priorities, consistent with an editorial policy to promote clinical studies. This goal was only partly achieved in this time period, with clinical studies increasing during the 1988–1990 period. But this positive trend reversed beginning in 1990. In the early 1990s the percentage of studies conducted in normal subjects began increasing due to the growing number of event-related studies in normal subjects, often describing techniques which were not applicable or validated in patients.

Among clinical disease topics, epilepsy had the most reports, which were about 15% of the overall clinical reports. Sleep disorders, focal CNS lesions, movement disorders and neuropathies each represented about 10% of clinical studies published. Peripheral nervous system diseases clearly increased from previous time periods, a change that was related to the very successful launching of the *EMG & Motor Control* volume in Europe. Similarly epidemiologic trends explained the

increase of papers devoted to dementia and AIDS. The gradual drop in portion of papers on epilepsy and sleep was probably related to the competition with other journals such as *Epilepsia* and *Sleep*.

The countries of origin remained widely diverse. In the Western editorial office the increase in manuscripts from Japan was notable. Japanese submissions rose to nearly 30% of the manuscripts received in that office.

The two editorial offices used nearly 600 colleagues to review manuscripts during these 4 years. Most reviewers were not on the list of official consulting editors. The consulting editors were appointed for a term of 3 years, and choosing the names for the formal editorial panel was very difficult. In order to recognize those who have accepted the task of reviewing many manuscripts, sometimes for many years, required dropping other names from this list.

Reviewers who provide excellent editorial services to the journal through the burden of reviewing papers ought to eventually see their name on the front page of the journal. This difficult task of changing names on the editorial panel raised many questions especially from those whose names were removed. The editors expressed a wish that those whose names had been dropped would understand the need to do so.

Two awards have been established for young investigators. The Brazier and Cobb Awards, sponsored by Elsevier, were awarded to the best manuscript submitted to the journal in the field of Clinical Neurophysiology in Europe and in the Western Hemisphere, respectively, at the time of the quadrennial International Congress.

The journal had achieved the recognition of citations in Biological Abstracts (BIOSIS), Chemical Abstracts, Index Medicus, Medline, Current Contents Life Science, Current Contents Clinical Medicine, Excerpta Medica (EMBASE), PASCAL M/CNRS, RIS/Reference Update, and Current Awareness in Biological Sciences (CABS). The journal had achieved and maintained the highest scientific impact factor of any journal in field of Clinical Neurophysiology.

2. New member societies

By the end of the previous Fiscal Period the Federation had 47 member societies. There were questions raised about new countries applying to the Federation. The situation of a united Germany presented no problem as the two countries had agreed upon amalgamation and formed one organization. Several other countries applied to the Federation for membership: Cuba, Malaysia, Turkey, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic. The Czech and Slovak applications were favourably reviewed after they were able to notify the Executive Committee in writing that the Czechoslovakian Society of Neurophysiology no longer existed. Turkey was notified that there was already one society recognized in their country and that a second society can apply only if its area of neurophysiologic specialization or membership differs from the other society. In the end the previous Turkish society was found to have dissolved and the new one was recognized as its successor. The Cuban application was slowed by lack of documentation. Questions were raised about the status of the Malaysian society as a formal society or section on Clinical Neurophysiology, since it appeared to be a Neurological Society itself applying for membership. A need for better guidelines for member society admission to the IFCN was noted.

Members-at-Large Jagjit Chopra from India and Jerzy Majkowski from Poland were particularly helpful in resolving various regional problems. Along this line, the Federation remained deeply interested in the activities of the West European Association for Clinical Neurophysiology and the Association of Central and East European Societies for Clinical Neurophysiology. Those autonomous regional organizations nominated François Mauguière and Jerzy Majkowski as secretaries of their respective Liaison Committees, which was very convenient in that both served at that time on the IFCN Executive Committee. These regional organizations were precursors to the eventual European Chapter that became an integral part of the IFCN.

3. Finances

Under the efficient and reliable work of the Treasurer Manuel Meyer the Federation's total income in this 4-year Fiscal Period grew to US \$890,000, or 7.5% more than during the previous 4 years. The annual income reached a stable plateau, and it was not predicted to change significantly in the coming few years. Income is based on four sources: Elsevier royalties, member societies' dues, interest on investments, and repayment of loans to congresses.

Total expenses had increased considerably since the previous 4-year Fiscal Period. Support to international congresses increased 23% to US \$311,974 in the form of fellowships, grants, loans and contributions to organizations. Loans to the Rio de Janeiro and Jerusalem Congresses were repaid in full. Costs of living and transportation together increased 12% for both the European and American editorial offices and for the Executive Committee functions. A contributing factor to increased Executive Committee costs was the successful broad geographically composition of Executive Committee members, a policy good for the Federation but which increased air travel costs.

The account's balance over the 4-year Fiscal Period shows an overall gain of US \$86,592. Part of the gain overall was due to favourable currency exchange rate changes. Total assets had increased to US \$545,366 by the end of this 4-year Fiscal Period.

Financially, the IFCN was in good financial condition, certainly far better than during darker financial days in the 1970s. For an international scientific organization this situation was excellent. The accounting was reviewed and approved by Otto Sprecher in Zurich, an outside auditor retained by the Federation for this purpose.

4. Secretary

Federation Secretary Barry R. Tharp communicated on a regular basis with the Delegates and member societies and responded to all inquiries

of the Federation. The Secretary organized the business meetings of the Council and the General Assembly. His duties included keeping the minutes for the meetings of the Executive Committee, Editorial Board, Congress Organizing Committee, Council and General Assembly, and distributing minutes to the Council Delegates. The secretarial office prepared 22 issues of the Federation's Yellow Pages information section camera ready for publication in the EEG Journal, listing notices of meetings and information about Member Society and Federation activities. The Secretary organized the presentations of societies seeking to host the next International Congresses both for the EEG and EMG series. He kept the Federation Statutes and Bye-laws updated with assistance from former EMG Commissioner Stéphane Métral of France who prepared the French version.

At the Secretarial Report at the Vancouver Congress, Barry Tharp made some suggestions that arose from his experience during his Secretariat. His proposals concerned the accountability and transparency of the Treasurer's activity, the election process of the Federation's officers, the number of votes in relation to the size of the Member Societies, and the geographical distribution of the Executive Committee members. These items were discussed at the Vancouver General Assembly and the subsequent new Executive and Rules Committees, leading to a series of amendments to the Statutes and Bye-Laws.

5. Rules committee

Several sets of rule changes were discussed and approved during this 4-year Fiscal Period. The rule changes were initiated by the Executive and Rules Committees and by the General Assembly. The Rules Committee carefully considered the proposals in relation to the existing statutes and Bye-Laws. The Executive Committee approved the changes and forwarded it on the agenda of the Council and General Assembly of the Vancouver Congress.

The Rules Committee members in this term were Marc Nuwer (USA, Chairman), Jasper Daube (USA), Carl H. Lücking (Germany), Teresa Sagalés (Spain), Minoru Shimokochi (Japan).

Rule changes below show new text as **bold** and removed text in strike-through.

5.1. Conflict between the Statutes and Bye-Laws concerning two Editors-in-Chief

A Statute change was needed to allow for two Editors-in-Chief. At the Rio de Janeiro IFCN meeting, Bye-Laws were amended to allow two Editors-in-Chief instead of just one. The Rules Committee was charged with drafting Statute changes to refer to the Editors-in-Chief in the plural number. The following rule changes were approved.

Statute VI.1. The Federation is administered by an Executive Committee composed of the President, the immediate Past President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Federation, ~~the Editor~~ **the two Editors** in Chief of the EEG Journal, ~~or his deputy,~~ the ~~Chairman~~ **Chairmen** of Special Commissions and two additional members-at-large.

Bye-Laws: Executive Committee

1. (Stat. VI.1) The representatives of the EEG Journal are normally the Editors-in-Chief. If ~~this post~~ **these posts** should be ~~in abeyance~~ **vacant**, one of the other Editors, nominated by the Executive Committee, shall represent the Journal.

5.2. Potential lack of turnover on the Executive Committee

At the time of quadrennial elections, as few as two new persons might be seated on the new eight members of the Executive Committee. Encouraging greater turnover seems appropriate. Currently contributing to the lack of turnover is a rule that the Secretary and Treasurer both may be re-elected once. The Rules Committee suggested

preventing simultaneous re-election of both the Secretary and Treasurer. One easy way to do so is to allow the Secretary to serve only one term. The following rule changes were approved.

Statute VII. 3. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Federation, the members of Special Commissions and the Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee are elected by the Council from the nominees of the nomination committee. Their term of office is the Fiscal Period. The President, **Secretary**, Chairman of Special Committees and Members-at-Large may serve only one term in office. ~~The Secretary and the Treasurer are~~ is eligible for re-election once only.

5.3. Term of office for Editor-in-Chief

The unelected status of the two Editors-in-Chief contributed to lack of Executive Committee turnover, more so once the number of Editors-in-Chief was increased from one to two. In addition, there was no clear term of office for the Editors-in-Chief. Suggested solutions included specifying a term of office for each Editor-in-Chief, or allowing each new Executive Committee to re-appoint each Editor-in-Chief. The total tenure of an Editor-in-Chief could also be limited, for example, to 8 years maximum. This would have been consistent with the practice for some other journals. The current Statutes do give the Executive Committee the power to set Bye-Laws to govern the appointment of the EEG Journal Editorial Staff. A new rule was proposed and approved:

Statute VII. 4. The Editorial Staff of the EEG Journal is appointed, **reappointed, or removed** by the Executive Committee. **Each Editor-in-Chief's term of office is 8 years. An Editor-in-Chief cannot be reappointed. An Editor-in-Chief cannot vote on his or her own tenure or termination of appointment and should not be present when these are discussed and put to a vote. The Executive Committee may establish policies and procedures for removal from office of Editors-in-Chief or other members of the Editorial Staff.**

5.4. Organization of a congress

There had been no Bye-Laws section about the Organization Committee of the International Congress (OCIC) panels and their work. Guidelines helped each new OCIC to standardize some aspects of each congress. These were prompted by organizational and financial problems encountered in some past congresses. A new Bye-Law about organizing a congress was adopted:

5.4.1. Bye-Laws — Organization of a congress

1. **The OCIC, constituted as indicated in Statute XII, shall have responsibility to organize all aspects of the International Congress. A budget shall be created consistent with standard accounting practices and appropriate fiscal assumptions. Responsibility for any net financial deficit of the congress shall be decided explicitly at least 2 years prior to the congress. Fiscally responsible organizations shall be presented with accounting reports and budget estimates at least twice each year through the time of the congress.**
2. **The OCIC will set aside program time for three honorary lectures, named the Berger, Adrian and Kugelberg Lectures. The OCIC will invite distinguished speakers to present these lectures.**
3. **The OCIC will budget to set aside as uncommitted funds 15% of the congress registration fee from all active members of constituent societies excluding junior members. If the congress runs a budget deficit, these uncommitted funds will be used to cover the deficit. If uncommitted funds still remain or if the congress has a net profit, these uncommitted funds will be transferred to the IFCN to defray costs of a fellowship program to help young physicians attend congresses.**

5.5. Journal Bye-Law changes

At several points Bye-Laws on the *Journal* needed clarification. These were developed

following the rules adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1990 appointing both Editors-in-Chief to the Federation Executive Committee. The rules adopted in Vancouver specify that the Executive Committee constitutes the Board overseeing the Journal's business aspects. That Editorial Board advised the Editors-in-Chief on matters of general policy but leaves the day-to-day, scientific, and editorial responsibilities for the journal entirely to the Editors-in-Chief or to the publishers. Consulting Editor appointments must be based on merit and service. This was meant to discourage purely honorary or courtesy appointments. The Editors-in-Chief are in the best position to nominate Consulting Editors because they are familiar with current Consulting Editors' and ad hoc reviewers' timeliness and content of reviews. The following amendments were adopted:

5.5.1. Bye-Laws, Journal

1. The Executive Committee ~~and the present Editors of the Journal~~ constitutes the Editorial Board of the Journal.
2. The Editorial Board appoints the Editors, assign to them their functions and defines their relationship. It appoints the Consulting Editors **from nominees submitted by the Editors-in-Chief based upon scientific merit and willingness to serve. Except for the Editors-in-Chief**, all these appointments may be for an indefinite period. **All these appointments** may be subject to review at any time and shall not be terminated by the end of the Fiscal Period.
3. The Editorial Board advises the **Editors-in-Chief** on matters of general policy and arbitrates on matters referred to it by the **Editors-in-Chief**, but leaves the day to day conduct of, and responsibility for, the Journal entirely to the **Editors-in-Chief** in conjunction with the publishers.

6. Ceremonial gavel

On the occasion of the OCIC meeting in Kyoto, July 1993, John Desmedt (Past President) and Carl Lücking (President elect) strolled through

Kyoto to be looking for a "symbol of power" for the IFCN President (Appendix 11, Fig. 3). In a small antique shop near Kiyomizu Temple they found something resembling the most a sceptre or a gavel. They were told that this wooden piece was called "Nyoibo" which contains some magic power (Appendix 11, Fig. 4). At a later time, Hiroshi Shibasaki found out the legend of Nyoibo: it was used by an ape warrior called Songoku when he helped a Chinese priest called Sanzo-Hoshi going all the way from China to India to obtain the Buddhist Bible. During the journey the monkey was able to accomplish, by using the Nyoibo, all kinds of miracles to protect the priest. This is all based on a novel called Saiyuhki written in ancient China. Thus Noyibo is not exactly the same as either a sceptre or a gavel but it may be more or less like a magic bar with which one can do anything what one likes to do.

The Nyoibo was handed over to the President Jun Kimura during the OCIC session in Kyoto. The intention was that this instrument will serve for that point forward as the ceremonial gavel to be handed from president to the next president. Given its tradition, it also serves as a sign of hope that the president and the Federation will achieve its goal during each term. At the General Assembly in Vancouver, September 1993, it was presented for the first time as a ceremonial gavel to the incoming Federation President Carl Lücking with an expressed hope that the Nyoibo brings the new Executive Committee team success in the coming 4 years in what they wish to accomplish for the cause of IFCN.

Each succeeding President has received the Nyoibo from the outgoing President at the end of the quadrennial General Assembly as a ceremonial token of their authority in office and wish for good fortune throughout their term of office.

7. Regional meetings

The IFCN granted fellowships and support not only for the International Congresses but also for certain regional meetings. In the days before formal Chapter Congresses, these served the

Federation's goal of bringing education and science to the clinical neurophysiology audience where it was needed. It also served to advance the practice of the field in these areas, and to give support to newly established member societies.

The procedure for selecting the recipients of fellowships was similar to International Congresses. Each Member Society was asked to submit, with a priority ranking, a list of candidates (less than 40 years old and having a paper submitted to the Congress) with a brief CV. The final choice for regional meetings was made with due consideration of all factors involved by the Liaison Officers appointed by the IFCN (François Mauguière or Jerzy Majkowski). Initially 20 fellowships of US \$400 each were provided. Since the 1992 European Congress in Lisbon, the number of fellowships was increased to 30 at US \$400 each. These were granted to promote Clinical Neurophysiology in Europe as well as to effect cooperation between national and regional societies and the IFCN. Comparable efforts have been done by IFCN through Fellowship programs in conjunction with regional meetings outside of Europe such as the Bangkok, Bali, and Beijing Regional Symposia of the preceding Fiscal Period.

In general, fellowships would be considered for regional meetings involving more than one country. As the IFCN support should be available for future congresses, the Executive Committee discussed in 1991 some type of financial remuneration from the congresses and decided that congresses which want their meeting to be held under the auspices of IFCN pay US \$1000 or 10% of the profits, whichever is larger, to the IFCN. If requested, IFCN would provide a US \$10,000 loan to the Organizing Committee of a regional meeting that would be reimbursed if a meeting profit was attained.

7.1. V. European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ECCN)

The V ECCN was organized under the auspices of all the European National Societies of Clinical Neurophysiology and held under the Presidency

of Stéphane Métral in Paris, France, on September 9–12, 1990. The site was the Centre International de Conférences in the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie de la Vilette. IFCN provided 20 fellowships granted to young investigators. A Liaison Committee, whose Secretary was François Mauguière, brought together the delegates of each of the Western European societies for clinical neurophysiology. This was established and met during the Congress to discuss several issues. Jerzy Majkowski had been invited as an observer to represent the Eastern European Societies for CN. The Liaison Committee decided to hold ECCN every 2 years in even years to avoid the uneven years used by IFCN congresses. The next ECCN was scheduled for Lisbon, Portugal in September 1992.

7.2. XV. Congress of Eastern European Societies for Clinical Neurophysiology

The East-Central Association of European Societies organized this Congress. The Secretary for that association was Jerzy Majkowski. The Bulgarian Society organized this congress, which was held in Varna, Bulgaria, in October 1991. Twenty fellowships were granted by IFCN to young investigators. This was part of a series of such Congresses held in the Eastern Europe.

7.3. VI. European Congress on Clinical Neurophysiology (ECCN)

The VI ECCN was held in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 19–22, 1992, and followed by the "First Advanced Course on CN" from September 23 to 24. The Congress was organized under the auspices of the IFCN and promoted by the Portuguese Association of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. F. Lopes da Silva, who was born in Lisbon, was appointed Honorary President and gave the Egaz Moniz Lecture on basic mechanisms of epilepsy from neuronal membranes to neural networks. The Scientific Committee consisted of delegates of nearly all National Societies

of East and Western Europe. The Advanced course was chaired by F. Mauguière and A. Martins da Silva. It was an excellent meeting on the scientific level and remarkable for the social events with a Welcome Reception at the Castel S. Jorge from the VIII century and the Farewell Party at a farm north of Lisbon, in the bull breeding area of Ribatejo. The IFCN provided 30 fellowship grants at US \$400 each to allow young investigators to attend and present their scientific reports.

7.4. 2nd Bangkok Symposium on Clinical Neurophysiology

The 2nd Bangkok Symposium was organized in March 1993. IFCN provided 20 fellowships of US \$400 each to help young physicians in the Asian region to attend. The meeting was organized by the Thailand society and involved many clinical neurophysiologists from Asian countries. This was another step toward bringing the Asian societies together in what eventually became an IFCN Chapter.

7.5. XVI. Congress of Eastern European Societies for Clinical Neurophysiology

The East-Central Association of European Societies and the Polish Society of Clinical Neurophysiology organized this XVI Congress of Eastern European Societies for Clinical Neurophysiology. The meeting was held in Poland on June 3–5, 1993. Initially no fellowships were required for this meeting. But as the Executive Committee had decided to support this meeting as any other regional meeting, seven fellowships of US \$400 were provided retroactively to young scientists who had attended the meeting.

In the previous year, the Eastern and Central European clinical neurophysiologists and delegates of their societies attended the ECCN in Portugal. The political need had disappeared for two parallel clinical neurophysiology meetings. Soon after this Congress, the Eastern–Central Congress

series was disbanded. Thereafter all European clinical neurophysiologists attended the ECCN series together.

8. International congresses

8.1. IX. International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology, Jerusalem 1992

This Jerusalem Congress was among the most challenging to prepare. World politics deteriorated shortly before the scheduled Jerusalem Congress dates of June 1991. Tensions in the Near East worsened and in February and March 1991 war broke out in Kuwait and Iraq. Israel found itself under air attack. Once the ground war started, the war was apparently over quickly. A truce was declared, but public opinion still was concerned about war or further provocative actions against Israel. On many occasions, the OCIC considered and reconsidered its options. In that OCIC, IFCN Executive Committee members J. Kimura, J.E. Desmedt, B. Tharp, and M. Meyer represented the Federation and A. Gilai, P. Solzi and M. Rabey represented the Israel Society of Clinical Neurophysiology. The discussions remained always congenial, but this OCIC found it difficult to make final decisions. Some members insisted on holding the meeting in June as scheduled in Jerusalem, whereas the IFCN representatives preferred to cancel the Congress out right without taking a calculated risk. Majority votes were deeply split. Council Delegates were polled, and again there was no clear consensus. The best choices seemed be either cancellation or postponement. In the end, President J. Kimura recommended to postpone the meeting to a time substantially later than the originally planned dates. The rest of the OCIC agreed to this compromise.

When the Congress eventually took place in the following year in 1992 the organizers welcomed over 500 physicians and scientists as well as guests from all corners of the world. This attendance was much more than originally

anticipated. The Federation provided 42 fellowships at US \$600 each to support the attendance of young investigators. Despite a smaller number of participation than the typical EMG Congress, the meeting had remarkably strong scientific and social programs. The major items included the second Honorary Kugelberg Lecture delivered by Arthur K. Asbury on "Polyneuropathies at the Millennium" and the second Honorary Adrian Lecture delivered by John Newsom-Davis on "New Concepts in Neuromuscular Disorders". The registrants at the Congress provided excellent feedback about high scientific quality of the meeting. The Congress was accompanied by a satellite symposium on Magnetic Stimulation, organized by Kerry Mills (UK) just after the main congress itself.

Financially, the Jerusalem Congress's financial operations were well in control and the organization was able to repay the Federation's loans. Under the particularly difficult circumstance in the shadow of a war, and in fact under any circumstances, the Congress was considered a great success.

8.2. XIII. *International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology, Vancouver, BC, September 1993*

This EEG Congress was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from August 30 through September 5, 1993. It was held under the auspices of three host societies, the Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists, American Association of Electrodiagnostic Medicine, and American Electroencephalographic Society. The OCIC included IFCN members Jun Kimura (President), John Desmedt (Past President), Barry Tharp (Secretary), Manuel Meyer (Treasurer), and from the host societies Juhn Wada (Convener), Andrew Eisen (Secretary), Mark Hallett (Treasurer). See Appendix 11, Figs. 5 and 6. The OCIC hired a professional congress organizer firm, Venue West. The Congress was held just before the World Congress of Neurology

in the same Vancouver Convention Hall. That site was located on the harbour with striking views of the inlet, Lyons Gate Bridge, and surrounding mountains.

Andrew Eisen, who lived in Vancouver, handled much of the difficult and often controversial issues with finesse. The effect of a depressed worldwide economy may have hurt attendance. A number of IFCN member societies were unable to send representatives because of the cost, the economy, and the distance to Vancouver. The IFCN provided 100 fellowships for young investigators. In all, 969 delegates registered for the meeting.

The congress site was the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre. Honorary Presidents were Edward Lambert, Herbert Jasper, Peter Kellaway, Irena Hausmanova-Petrusewicz (see Appendix 11, Figs. 8 and 9). The scientific programme included 15 Plenary Sessions, 16 Hands-on Workshops, 12 Video Demonstrations, 60 Poster-Sessions of nearly 600 posters. The program was highlighted by three well received special contributions: the third Adrian Lecture was presented by John Desmedt (Belgium) on "Somatic Sensation and Its Disorders: Evoked Potential Evidence". Edward Lambert (USA) was selected to give the third Kugelberg Lecture on "Disorders of Neuromuscular Junction". Pierre Gloor (Canada) presented the third Honorary Lecture, the Berger Lecture, on the question, "Is Berger's Dream Coming True?" Abstracts of the plenary sessions, video presentations, and posters were published in a supplement of *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology*, Number 2, August 1993.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the historic, beautifully restored Orpheum Theatre. The audience had been most eagerly awaiting the President. But Jun Kimura's flight from Japan was badly delayed so that a limousine was sent to pick him and his wife Junko up at the airport. He came straight to the "Opening" in a T-shirt and jeans! (See Appendix 11, Figs. 5 and 6.) He led the audience in remarking in amusement about that attire and the need to be a patent traveller.

The highlight of the social program was the “British Columbia Night”, an exciting entertainment event that offered Canadian West Coast showmanship and hospitality (see Appendix 11, Fig. 7). In a ladies’ competition of hitting nails into a wooden plate, Merula Lücking, wife of the new IFCN President, was the winner and declared as “Miss Nail” and awarded a carved squirrel.

Despite the worldwide economic problems, IFCN was very fortunate to have a very successful congress both from scientific and social points of view. The Congress employed a professional congress organizer firm, Venue West. That relationship with a professional organization to help with the organizational details proved very positive. The experience of professionals in congress organizing was very helpful and this provided a way to accommodate the great amount of time and effort necessary to mind the details and budget. That firm, Venue West, would come back into the history of the IFCN later when they also assumed the role of executive administrative office for the IFCN in late 2006. The later administrative office choice was influenced by the positive experience with the firm helping to run this congress. This experience also encouraged a desire that future congresses should also use an experienced professional congress organizer firm to help with management details.

8.3. Vancouver General Assembly Report of the President

In his report Jun Kimura noted that he was the first President from Asia and the first President of the Federation under its new name *International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology* that had been in use since the 1990 Rio de Janeiro General Assembly. The new name acknowledged the equal importance of EEG and EMG and unified clinical electrophysiology without clear division into multiple disciplines. The President underlined difficulties as well as success in organizing the IFCN Congresses of Jerusalem and Vancouver. He also acknowledged the

responsible, dedicated work carried out by retiring Executive Committee officers, Barry Tharp, Manuel Meyer, Jagjit Chopra, and Jerzy Majkowski. He especially mentioned the contribution of John Desmedt, outgoing Past President, who served with distinction during this and previous fiscal periods, initially as the Chairman of the EMG Commission and later as President. He is one of the very few to have accomplished so much in improving the status of clinical neurophysiology in general and the image of the International Federation in particular. The President then continued:

“These have been exciting four years with some unexpected problems, which we have jointly overcome and some pleasant surprises that we have enjoyed together. The system, which I witnessed over the past four years, worked very well. It was empirical and eminently efficient, providing perhaps the most practical way the Executive Committee could manage to serve its purpose. In this rapidly evolving world, however, it seems necessary to modify our operation to adapt to the emerging new expectations. We need to clarify our objectives and encourage active participation from all member societies, large or small, with different needs and problems to reflect their vision, their insight and their ideals. The Federation is a very delicate instrument with contributions from many national societies, having different priorities and preferences in regard to science in political systems. Thus, in the operation of the organization, nothing should be taken as granted. For example, those of us who speak English as their mother tongue or use it almost as the first language, as I do, must recognize how disadvantaged many delegates are who speak other languages. We must overcome national and individual differences in the interest of unity which is imperative if we are to succeed in strengthening the status of clinical neurophysiology as the unique discipline bridging the basic science and clinical medicine. We live in changing times, and the Federation is no exception.”

At the end of the General Assembly the President handed the new Ceremonial Gavel, the Nyoibo, to the new President Carl Lücking wishing him and the new Executive Committee that the Nyoibo would bring the new team what they wish to accomplish for the cause of IFCN.

8.4. Vancouver General Assembly Report of the Secretary

In addition to the rule changes brought to the floor by the Rules Committee, Federation outgoing Secretary Barry Tharp presented to the General Assembly two groups of suggestions for new or future rules. The first suggestions sought to improve financial accountability. These included:

1. The Treasurer should prepare detailed accounting of costs. This should be available to the Executive Committee and to any member society requesting it.
 - (a) This should include expenses for each person for each Executive Committee and Congress Organizing Committee meeting. Persons should provide receipts for their expenses.
 - (b) This should include all expenses incurred by Executive Committee members outside of regular meetings, that is, to run Federation business in their offices.
2. The Executive Committee must approve of disbursements in excess of US \$300.

Dr. Tharp also brought to the General Assembly suggestions for improvements in the process of electing Executive Committee members. These included:

1. The Executive Committee should monitor the election process. The Nominating Committee chairman should report to the Executive Committee about which societies voted and efforts to contact societies who failed to submit a ballot. No late ballots should be counted. Only written ballots should be accepted. Nominees must agree to have their name on the ballot. Campaigning by the Nominating Committee members is against Federation rules and Delegates should report to the Executive Committee any violations. Campaigning includes any contact with a Delegate for the purpose of influencing a vote.
2. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election should be held of the top two or three candidates.

3. The Federation should allow societies to cast the same number of votes in elections as the society they were entitled to in the General Assembly.
4. Additional geographical restrictions should be developed. If the president was from one region, for example Europe, the secretary and the treasurer should be from other regions.
5. No one should serve more than 8 years on the Executive Committee, as chairperson of a commission, or as editor of the journal. This would allow a healthy turnover of leadership.

To follow up on those suggestions, the General Assembly members brought forth several motions that were debated and accepted in near-unanimous votes. These Vancouver General Assembly resolutions were:

1. A more detailed and complete accounting of all expenses of the Federation should be provided to every delegate at least 3 months prior to every IFCN Congress. All records of expenditures should be open to delegate inspection upon request.
2. The Executive Committee should develop specific rules for justification of expenditures. The General Assembly rejects the budget presented at this meeting. A detailed budget for the next 2 years must be prepared immediately by the new Executive Committee and be made available to each Delegate within 2 months. In the future, the detailed Federation Fiscal Period budget proposal must be made available to the Delegates at least 3 months prior to each IFCN Congress.
3. The Rules Committee develops amendments to the Statutes that societies have as many votes in the Executive Committee elections be as they do for votes in the General Assembly. Votes would be allotted on the basis of the size of the society.
4. The Rules Committee re-evaluates the entire voting process of the Federation with respect to the issues raised in the Secretary's report and make specific recommendations for changes in the official voting rules and

regulations within the next 6 months. Furthermore, these recommended changes should be distributed to all delegates as soon as they are completed and that General Assembly vote by mail 3 months later. The issues of concern included, but were not limited to, weighing of votes by the size of societies, balancing the geographic and disciplinary considerations, that electioneering is not acceptable and that this point should be disseminated with information sent with the ballot, the relationship of Executive Committee to the Nominating Committee be reviewed and clarified, and whether Executive Committee members could vote in General Elections.

5. Council and General Assembly meetings will be held in 2 years at the Kyoto International EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology Congress.
6. The Rules Committee is instructed to develop a statute that no individual can serve on Executive Committee for more than 12 years, except that this should not preclude the Editor or any other appropriate individual from becoming President of the Federation.
7. The General Assembly in Kyoto should decide the venue of the subsequent EMG Congress.

8.5. Site of the next IFCN Congress in 1997

Ten member societies presented invitations to host the next Congress that was scheduled for 1997. Many had booths in the Congress area during the duration of the congress to encourage support for their city's bid and to allow delegates and others to ask questions about the bids and cities. This encouraged a great deal of discussion during the Congress about the choice for the next site. The General Assembly meeting was held toward the end of the overall Congress session, leading to a great deal of suspense over which national society and city would win the balloting. The invitations, presented in alphabetical order along with their presenters, included Argentina (M. Turner), Australia (R. Mackenzie), Austria (H. Lechner), Chile (N. Chiofalo), Germany

(H.J. Heinze), Hungary (I. Szirmai), India (J. Chopra), Israel (A. Gilai), Italy (G. Comi) and Thailand (P. Boongird). After several rounds of secret ballots, the list was reduced to Australia and Italy. The final secret ballot tally was Italy 39 and Australia 38, which was recounted several times to assure that the total was reported correctly. The next International Congress was therefore set for Florence, Italy in 1997. The winning delegation expressed a great deal of spontaneous enthusiasm in the General Assembly meeting and wished everyone a great welcome in advance to attend the 1997 Congress.

9. Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee in this term was composed of J.E. Desmedt (Belgium, Chairman), Nelly Chiofalo (Chile), Pierre Guiheneuc (France), and Nobuo Yanagisawa (Japan). The committee conducted the 1993 elections for President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Members-at-Large. As decided by the 1985 London General Assembly, all persons nominated by Delegates were listed on the election ballot if they accepted to run. The nominees were required to be an individual member of a Federation Member Society. Only the Secretary and Treasurer could be re-elected for a second term. In this case, the Treasurer was in his second term, and therefore he was ineligible for re-election.

No geographical restrictions were applied to nominees for the two Members-at-Large positions. Allowed nominees were from geographical areas not yet represented on the new Executive Committee officers. The definition of geographical zones to be excluded was defined until after having carrying out elections for the new President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Bye-Laws require disciplinary balance between nominees. The nominees for Secretary must be of the opposite EEG or EMG discipline than that of the just-elected Treasurer. The two Members-at-Large had to be from opposite disciplines. This latter was implemented by having two positions,

one for an EEG Member-at-Large and one for an EMG Member-at-Large.

The election was held in three stages. A majority was required to win a position, and otherwise a run-off round was scheduled. The correspondence about the election process and the ballots were sent by mail to the 55 members of the IFCN Council, that is the Delegates of the 47 affiliated societies and the eight members of the current IFCN Executive Committee.

In the first round of balloting, eight persons were nominated for the President position, two of whom declined to run. Three persons were nominated for the Treasurer position. Forty-eight ballots were returned so that the absolute majority was 25. Carl Lücking received a clear majority for President and Paul Despland for Treasurer without requiring a run-off. In the second round of balloting, seven persons were nominated Secretary, among whom one declined to run. Forty-eight ballots were returned so that the absolute majority was 25. Giuseppe Caruso received a clear majority on the first ballot.

In the third election round, the geographic restrictions were used. Since the three recently elected officers were from European countries

(Germany, Switzerland, and Italy), it was simple to define the “as yet unrepresented geographical areas” by merely excluding nominees from Europe for Member-at-Large positions. One person was nominated for EEG Member-at-Large and two for EMG Members-at-Large. All accepted to run. Fifty-two ballots were returned so that a majority required 27. Marc Nuwer (USA) received unanimous votes for EEG Member-at-Large, and Xiao-Fu Tang (China) received a clear majority for EMG Member-at-Large.

The identity of the person signing ballots on behalf of any affiliated society was ascertained throughout. Postal addresses were checked and updated. The number of ballots returned was greater than in the 1989 election (48 instead of 45 for the President–Treasurer election; 48 instead of 33 for the Secretary election; 52 instead of 37 for the Members-at-Large election). Several members of the Nomination Committee recounted the ballots.

The Executive Committee for the next term also will include Past-President Jun Kimura and Editors-in-Chief François Mauguère and Gastone G. Celesia. The Executive Committee for the 1993–1997 Fiscal Period will consist of:

President	Carl H. Lücking	EMG	Region 2	Germany
Past President	Jun Kimura	EMG	Region 1	Japan
Secretary	Giuseppe Caruso	EMG	Region 2	Italy
Treasurer	Paul A. Despland	EEG	Region 2	Switzerland
Member-at-Large	Marc Nuwer	EEG	Region 1	USA
Member-at-Large	Xiao-Fu Tang	EMG	Region 2	China
Editor-in-Chief	Gastone G. Celesia	EEG	Region 1	USA
Editor-in-Chief	François Mauguère	EEG	Region 2	France
