

## Chapter 13

### 1993–1997

#### President: Carl Lüking

In this term, the Executive Committee (ExCo) consisted of Carl Lüking (President), Jun Kimura (Past President), Giuseppe Caruso (Secretary), Paul Despland (Treasurer), Xiao-Fu Tang and Marc Nuwer (Members-at-Large), and Gastone Celesia and François Mauguière (Editors-in-Chief). The initial and primary activities were to implement the urgent motions made by the General Assembly at the Vancouver XIII ICEEGCN in 1993. These included transparency of the fiscal policy, detailed budgeting, re-evaluation of the Federation voting process, and eligibility and time limitation for ExCo membership.

##### 1. New policies

At the first ExCo meeting in Vancouver in 1993, the President declared to follow a fully democratic policy taking account of the views of the ExCo and IFCN members without pursuing personal interest. The Committee decided to increase the openness and accountability as well as the efficiency of the organizational structure of IFCN (Table 13.1). The Delegates should be informed on a regular basis about the decisions of the ExCo, the development of new rules, and the budget and spending situation. The minutes of ExCo meetings should be distributed as they are to the Delegates and regularly published as report in the Yellow Pages of the journal. In addition, the Statutes of IFCN, minutes of the General Assembly and reports of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editors-in-Chief, and the

Nomination Committee will be published in the Journal.

The requests of the Vancouver General Assembly were accomplished in the 2 years of this Fiscal Period. Regarding financial issues, the IFCN budget was submitted for approval to national Delegates ahead of each General Assembly. All expenses were registered in an accounting book that was made available for inspection by the Delegates. Two Delegates were chosen by Council as auditors to examine the accounting books in detail, give advice, help to decide on future expenses, and report back to Council independently of the ExCo. A goal was established to set aside an amount of US \$1 million that would allow the IFCN to continue to function using the interest without touching the capital. This would cushion the Federation in case of a financial disaster at an International Congress. Guidelines for the ExCo members' expenses were developed.

New rules elaborated the voting process, eligibility of officers, and geographical balance (Statutes and Bye-Laws). It is unacceptable for Nominating Committee members to contacting Delegates to campaign for particular candidates in ExCo elections. The nomination should reflect the view of the member societies.

Each year some member societies, especially from Eastern Europe and the Middle East, do not pay their annual dues. The ExCo decided not to propose to expel these societies, which would have been allowed according to the Statutes. Those societies would remain as inactive

TABLE 13.1

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY POLICY FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (ExCo) EXPENSES AND ACCOUNTING

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### 1. Office expenses

1.1. *ExCo officers*: Officers of the IFCN are entitled to reasonable reimbursement for secretarial and transcription services as well as the costs of telephones, faxing, copying and mailing. For the Treasurer, reimbursement includes the costs of auditing, accounting and other external financial services. Officers do not receive personal stipends. Each officer should be allotted a set annual budgeted allocation for these services and should be expected to provide the IFCN with appropriate accounting for disbursement of these funds at the end of each year. Suggested 1994–1995 annual budget allotments are:

President	US \$10,000
Past President	US \$ 3,000
Secretary	US \$10,000
Treasurer	US \$ 7,000

1.2. *Editors-in-Chief*: Editors-in-Chief receive reimbursement for the costs of secretarial and transcription services, phones, faxing, copying and mailing. Costs of travel related to the Journal and ExCo also come from this allotment, including costs of travel to meetings with Elsevier. There is no additional allotment for the cost of holding meetings with the consulting editors. The 1994–1997 annual recommended allotment for each Editor-in-Chief is:

Editor-in-Chief, each	US \$30,000
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1.3. *ExCo Members-at-Large* may be reimbursed for specific expenses incurred on behalf of ExCo and IFCN in carrying out their respective duties. Members-at-Large are not entitled to an automatic allocation at the start of each annual budget year, but rather would be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts and suitable documentation when expenses have been authorized by ExCo.

1.4. *Officers or Editors-in-Chief* who leave office during a budget year will receive a suitably prorated portion of the annual office payment. Any overpayment will be returned to the IFCN.

### 2. Meeting expenditures

2.1. *ExCo members* are entitled to reimbursement for the direct costs of travel to ExCo meetings, OCIC Meetings and IFCN Congresses. Travel expenses for Editors-in-Chief have to come out of their annual office expense.

2.2. *Airfare* is reimbursed at coach class except for intercontinental flights, which are reimbursed at business class. Travellers are asked to obtain the best value for airfare. Extra hotel nights may be authorized by the IFCN Treasurer in order to qualify for minimum stay requirements, but only if the total IFCN cost is less for the longer stay compared with the shorter stay. Train travel is also permitted. Before authorizing extra hotel nights to obtain a lower overall IFCN cost, the Treasurer must receive a detailed breakdown of the projected costs for both the shorter and the longer stay. Members must try to obtain the best prices for travel.

2.3. *Additional ground transportation* by taxi, or equivalent, is reimbursable. Request for reimbursement for taxi fare of US \$25, or more, should be accompanied by a receipt.

2.4. *Hotel costs* for room, tax and costs for meals are reimbursable up to an amount considered usual and customary for business travel at that location. ExCo members arriving after an intercontinental flight may arrive 1 day early to adjust to time changes. Additional costs of an accompanying spouse are not reimbursable. When it is needed as a room for committee meetings, the IFCN President may arrange for a suite.

2.5. *The costs of hotel incidentals* and entertainment are not reimbursable. IFCN will reimburse the costs of a speaker phone or conference calls placed during ExCo meetings itself. The cost of one brief telephone call or one fax are reimbursable once per day, for example to reconfirm travel reservations.

2.6. *For an ExCo or ICOC meeting* occurring at an international, national, or regional meeting, reimbursement is limited to the transportation and other costs for the day(s) of the ExCo meeting (cf. Sections 2.1–2.5). Registration fees for a meeting are not reimbursed by IFCN.

### 3. Accounting

- 3.1. Members are expected to submit copies of receipts along with a summary of expenses. The IFCN Treasurer will keep these on file until 1 year after the close of the IFCN Fiscal Period. Items less than US \$25 do not need to be accompanied by a receipt, but must be identified regarding the nature, date and purpose of the expense.
- 3.2. Annual payments for office expenditures for officers and Editors-in-Chief can be made at the beginning of each budget year in amounts specified above in Sections 1.1 and 1.2. Each officer and Editor-in-Chief must submit suitable accounting at the end of each year, identifying in detail the manner in which these funds were spent.
- 3.3. IFCN does not reimburse for items which are not identified, such as “miscellaneous” or “other” items not further identified.
- 3.4. Accounting for IFCN ExCo expenses must be carried out in a manner consistent with standard business practices with suitable receipts amenable to auditing and appropriate justifications for each expenditure.
- 3.5. The IFCN Treasurer is charged with assuring that all accounting and expenditures are conducted in a manner consistent with the IFCN policies and standard business practices.
- 3.6. An accounting report should be prepared annually by the Treasurer for presentation to ExCo. This accounting report should be mailed to IFCN Delegates. The report should break down categories of expenses into their details.
- 3.7. An audit of the IFCN accounting and funds should be conducted at least once every 4-year Fiscal Period (cf. IFCN Statute XV, Section 7).

### 4. Other policies

- 4.1. The ExCo needs to establish the time period for the 12-month budget years of IFCN. When a 4-year Fiscal Period is significantly longer or shorter than 48 months, suitable adjustments need to be made in the duration of the annual budget year. In the cases of shortened or lengthened budget years, suitable adjustments must be made in the annual amounts allocated to IFCN officers and Editors-in-Chief.
- 4.2. Although travel expenses are usually reimbursed subsequent to travel or at the conclusion of the ExCo meeting, the Treasurer may make suitable arrangements to pay in advance the cost of travel for ExCo members who require such assistance.
- 4.3. The Treasurer is authorized to directly pay the hotel for the costs of rooms and meals associated with ExCo Meetings. The costs of telephones, incidentals or entertainment, or additional costs of an accompanying spouse, which are not reimbursable by IFCN, may be: (A) paid directly to the hotel by the member incurring these expenses; or (B) by arrangement with the Treasurer. These costs may be deducted from the amount reimbursed for the member’s airfare and other travel expenses.
- 4.4. The cost of currency exchange, fund transfers, check collections from a foreign bank or applicable taxes may be reimbursed to members at the discretion of the Treasurer and upon presentation of receipts or other suitable documentation.
- 4.5. The IFCN President is responsible for authorizing routine expenses and reimbursement to the Treasurer, whereas the Treasurer is charged with authorizing routine expenditures to all other ExCo members.

members without voting rights, and their members still would be able to receive fellowships and other advantages. The fellowship stipends were fixed at US \$600, and authorized for 100 applicants for the International Congresses and 60 for each regional congress.

To foster clinical neurophysiology worldwide, the Members-at-large took over the special task to identify developing countries in which clinical

neurophysiology could be established or supported by offering fellowships, books and journals, and invitations to IFCN congresses. The same issue will be pursued by the President in close contact with the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) concerned with the prevention and treatment of neurological disorders of the WHO in Geneva. A campaign of the President and Elsevier to gain support from various industrial companies

to finance subscription of the EEG Journal for financially weak countries was not successful.

In August 1996, the President sent a letter to all Delegates to inform them about several achievements within the Federation. These included: efforts to establish associations of regional member societies of Asia, Latin America, and Europe in order to found Chapters of the IFCN; financial support and fellowships of US \$1000 for young scientists for regional meetings and International Congresses; active participation of ExCo members in regional meetings by organizing the ExCo meeting at the same place; campaign to obtain sponsors from the industrial sector in order to provide the EEG Journal to societies and members who can afford a subscription by their own means; plan to open a home page for the IFCN in the World Wide Web; invitation of the Delegates to send any matters of concern or suggestions which would be discussed by the ExCo and put on the agenda of the Council Meeting or General Assembly beforehand.

## 2. New member societies

The ExCo decided that a society must number at least three members. To apply for IFCN membership a minimum of 10 members is required. After the reunification of Germany in 1989 the two German societies merged into one. The dissolution of Yugoslavia since 1991 led to independent societies in Slovenia, Croatia and in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia, Montenegro, Vojvodina). Czechoslovakia in 1992 was separated into Czech Republic and Slovakia, each with its own society. In addition to the society of People's Rep. of China, a second Chinese society was established in Taiwan. This was in accordance with IFCN rules which allow the existence of several societies in one country (like in Belgium or USA). Further societies were established in South Korea and Cuba, and they applied for membership. The society in Turkey had become inactive, but in this Fiscal Period it re-emerged and re-activated its membership. The society in India changed from a

section of the Neurological Society of India into a section of the Indian Academy of Neurology. The Malaysian Society of Neurosciences investigated application for IFCN membership, although that was not finished until a later Fiscal Period. South Africa withdrew its membership because of the declining number of members due to physician emigration and the political situation in the country. A new society was founded in Egypt that subsequently applied for membership. Egypt would then be the only neurophysiologic society on the African continent.

The new societies, except for Egypt and Malaysia, were approved by the ExCo and the Council at Kyoto in 1995 and in Florence 1997, respectively. By the end of this Fiscal Period, the number of Member Societies had increased from 47 to 51. That number change accounted for six new Societies and two disbanded societies. To handle the politically sensitive issues of nations dividing, the ExCo adopted a policy to recognize a new nation once it was recognized and accepted by the United Nations General Assembly. In that way, the Federation would remain politically neutral and do so by deferring to that worldwide political organization to make decisions about when to recognize a nation.

## 3. Chapters

A new approach was undertaken to regional clinical neurophysiology organizations. This was accomplished to foster regional meetings and to pursue regional needs such as standardizing neurophysiologic training and practice. First a proposal was made by Latin American societies to establish a "Latin American Association of Clinical Neurophysiology". The European members preferred to found a "European Society of Clinical Neurophysiology" to oversee the already existing biennial European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology.

Finally it was agreed to initiate IFCN Chapters that would include all member societies of a region. This was a major accomplishment of this

Fiscal Period. The IFCN Chapters were established in three regions: European Chapter, Latin-American Chapter, and Asian Chapter (later Asian-Oceanian Chapter).

One ExCo member serves as liaison to each Chapter. The ExCo appointed Liaison Officers for three regional areas: Marc Nuwer for Latin America, Xiao-Fu Tang for Asia, and Paolo Rossini for Europe. Several initial principles were established. The Federation would give financial support to each Chapter, for example for regional Chapter meetings. Each Chapter would choose its own ExCo. The Chapter chairman would give a regular report to the Federation ExCo. The Chapter Bye-Laws would be a part of Federation Bye-Laws, approved by the IFCN Council upon the recommendation by the Chapter's General Assembly. The Federation Rules Committee would rule on any disagreements between Chapters and the ExCo or among Chapters. Each Chapter's Treasurer would report annual expenses and income to the IFCN Treasurer along with supporting receipts and details, so that this could be included in the Federation's annual financial auditing.

By the end of this Fiscal Period, the European Chapter organizational process was fully functioning and the Asian Chapter organizational process was well advanced. European and Asian Chapter Bye-Laws were presented and approved by Council at the 1997 Florence ICEEGCN. The Latin American chapter continued its organizational stages and its Bye-Laws development.

Several factors motivated the Federation to formalize Chapters. One initial reason was to organize regional meetings. At the beginning of this 4-year fiscal period, the IFCN continued its decade long practice to support regional meetings. The ExCo recognized considerable value in such meetings. Many attendees were young physicians and scientists who did not have the financial resources to travel to the biennial International Congresses. Likewise, many senior members of regional societies were much more easily able to participate and deliver lectures at these regional

meetings. Instead of making arrangements to support travel by many hundreds to the international congresses, it was financially more practical to bring excellent lectures and an international faculty to the region. Regional meetings allowed for greater involvement of the national societies in Federation activities. Meetings provided a means for some societies in a region to interact with each other more than had occurred historically. Meetings were an opportunity to approach local public officials to ask for greater resources for the national society, an opportunity that was successful on a number of occasions. Regional meetings provided a process by which additional clinical neurophysiologists from neighbouring nations could participate and discuss opportunities to establish a national society of their own. Overall, bringing some meetings to regions had achieved many goals consistent with the Federation's educational, scientific and organizational mission.

The Federation provided financial support for these regional meetings. The ExCo eventually decided to fund 60 fellowships for young physicians and scientists to attend and present at poster or platform sessions at regional meetings. Furthermore, the ExCo suggested holding its own meetings in association with these regional meetings when possible, so that ExCo members could lecture at the meetings at no cost to the meeting budget. This could reduce the substantial expense ordinarily incurred to bring international lecturers to a symposium. Requests for regional meetings would be considered individually by the ExCo, both for funding and for attendance by the ExCo.

Regional Congresses and Symposia initially arose from the joint requests of several societies in the region, and that must have represented the majority of members in that region. The IFCN ExCo reviewed each request independently. With the creation of Chapters, that responsibility devolved to the region's Chapter. IFCN Statutes require two ExCo members to participate in organizing each meeting along with the local host society and Chapter.

At the 1996 Beijing Symposium on Clinical Neurophysiology, the regional societies accepted the concept, agreed to form a chapter and elected an interim chairman, Xiao-Fu Tang of the People's Rep. of China. She currently sat on the Federation ExCo as a Member-at-Large and was a principal organizer of the 1996 symposium. In retrospect, this meeting was recognized as the First Asian Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology and the first Chapter meeting.

The Latin American Chapter took its first steps in 1995. An organization meeting was held during the Pan American Congress of Neurology in Guatemala City. During a 1-day symposium on Clinical Neurophysiology, the regional societies held a business meeting. The societies agreed in concept to form an IFCN chapter. They elected Nelly Chiofalo (Chile) as their chairperson because of her actions as the driving force behind creation of the Chapter. Enrique Delamonica (Argentina) was elected as initial Chapter secretary. They were asked to draft Bye-Laws for presentation at a next meeting, which was scheduled to be held in conjunction with the World Congress of Neurology in Buenos Aires in 1997.

In Europe, the discussion was about whether to form a free-standing society, or a Federation of European Clinical Neurophysiology Societies, or a chapter of the IFCN. At the 1996 Eighth European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ECCN) in Munich, representatives from 25 European member societies debated the choices. In the end, they voted unanimously (with one abstention and no objections) to form an IFCN European Chapter. An interim group of officers was appointed: Guenther Deuschl (Germany) as Chairman pro tempore, Al De Weerd (The Netherlands) as Secretary–Treasurer pro tempore, along with additional Special Committee members Anders Fuglsang-Fredericksen (Denmark), Jean-Marie Guérit (Belgium) and Aurora Constantinovici (Romania). They were asked to develop Bye-Laws and address other organizational issues. They reported back to the societies at the Florence 1997 International Congress of

EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. Actions taken there are covered in the next chapter of this book.

In the meanwhile, the European societies continued their discussion of recognizing Clinical Neurophysiology as a specialty in European Community. J.A. Jarrett (UK) had opened discussion of this at the Lisbon ECCN. This was considered an important area for Chapter action, although there remained no consensus about what action to take.

#### **4. Regional meetings**

Regional meetings supported during this 4-year term included the European Congresses of Clinical Neurophysiology in Budapest in July 1994 and in Munich in October 1996. In the Far East, the Asian Symposium on Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Beijing in September 1996. In Latin America, the Basic and Advanced Courses and Workshops in Clinical Neurophysiology were organized in conjunction with the IX Pan-American Congress of Neurology in Guatemala in October 1995.

##### *4.1. VII European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology*

European Congresses of (Electroencephalography and) Clinical Neurophysiology have been organized by one of the Western European Societies since 1976. The early congresses were held in Venice (1976), Salzburg (1979), Basel (1983), Amsterdam (1988), Paris (1990), and Lisbon (1992). Parallel congresses of Central East Europe were held until 1993.

The IFCN ExCo worked with François Mauqui re. He both served as Federation Editor-in-Chief and was involved with organization of the European meetings. He was instrumental in presenting a plan for the European meetings to be held within the framework of the Federation and its activities. The Federation agreed to provide fellowships for young physicians and scientists to attend the European meetings. Fellowships were preferentially assigned to Eastern European societies for the Budapest Congress in order to

facilitate attendance. Sixty grants of US \$600 each were awarded to persons nominated by their national society. The fellowship process restricted the grants to persons below 35 years of age, who have paid their congress registration fees and actually attended the meeting, and who presented at poster or platform sessions as first author.

The VII European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Budapest, Hungary, July 3–7, 1994. The congress venue was the Budapest Marriot and Atrium Hyatt Hotel. The organizing committee consisted of: József Czopf (President and Convener), Robert Galambos (Honorary President), and several members of the Hungarian Society; the Scientific Committee included representatives of the European societies and IFCN. The excellent programme covering all aspects of clinical neurophysiology contained 6 Plenary Lectures, 16 Scientific Sessions, 6 Free Communication Sessions, 2 Symposia, and 2 Poster Sessions with 6 different topics each. A full-day Advanced Course was organized on July 8. The social programme included the welcome party at the Duna Palace, a traditional Hungarian dinner in the garden of a restaurant in the Buda hills, a banquet and an evening pleasure boat trip on the river Danube. Nearly 400 neurophysiologists were registered for the meeting, mainly from 29 European countries but also from USA, Canada and Russia.

#### *4.2. Asian Symposium of Clinical Neurophysiology (ASCN '96)*

During the fiscal period 1985–1990 under the presidency of John Desmedt, clinical neurophysiology societies in South East Asia had organized regional symposia with intensive practical workshops in Bangkok (February 1987), Bali (September 1987), and Beijing (June 1989). The Second Bangkok Symposium on Clinical Neurophysiology was held in March 1993 at the initiative of the Society of Thailand. Following these meetings John Desmedt suggested building up a South East Asia Liaison Committee (SEALC) for Clinical

Neurophysiology. This would assemble the Delegates of the IFCN member societies of this area in order to promote Clinical Neurophysiology in Asia and to organize regional symposia. At that time this committee would consist of the Delegates to IFCN of China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and possibly Australia.

At the start of this Fiscal Period in 1993, Member-at-Large Xiao-Fu Tang of the People's Rep. of China (Appendix 11, Fig. 10) requested support for a regional conference in the South and East Asia region. This followed the successful format of previous Asian regional meetings in Beijing, Bali, and Bangkok. At the subsequent ExCo meeting, X.-F. Tang reported that Delegates from India, Thailand, China, Japan, Indonesia, and the Philippines had agreed to a South and East Asia Conference.

Tentatively this was set for autumn 1996. To assist in organizational details, X.-F. Tang requested that J. Desmedt and J. Kimura serve as consultants to the organizers. The US \$43,500 budget was spent for organizational costs plus 40 grants to young Asian physicians. By July 1994, plans were laid to hold this meeting in Beijing, China. Registration fee would need to be low, given the economic situation for physicians in China. The process of awards fellowships was revised. Instead of the figures appropriate for meetings in Europe or America, the meeting and travel costs were made more modest for young physicians from the host country. That allowed for more fellowships to be awarded at a reduced amount for each: instead of 30 fellowship awards at US \$600 each, US \$300 each for Chinese physicians and 15 at US \$600 for physicians from other regional nations.

The Asian Symposium of Clinical Neurophysiology (ASCN '96) was held in Beijing, September 23–25, 1996. The congress site was the Beijing International Hotel. The Symposium was organized under the auspices of the IFCN, Chinese Society of Neurology, Chinese Medical Association, Chinese Society of EMG and

Clinical Neurophysiology, and Chinese Society of EEG and Epilepsy. The Organization Committee consisted of: Xiao-Fu Tang (President and Convener), Prasert Boongird, Nubuo Yanagisawa, Jos Utama (Vice Presidents), De-Xuan Kang (Secretary), Ding-Guo Shen (Treasurer). Honorary Presidents were: John E. Desmedt, Jun Kimura, Carl H. Lüking, Xin-De Wang, Xiao-Da Zhou. The programme included four sessions of a total of 15 Special Lectures, many delivered by IFCN Officers, and four Platform Sessions with totalling 40 presentations. The meeting was accompanied by a welcome reception and a farewell banquet in a wonderful, Chinese customary atmosphere.

#### *4.3. Basic and advanced courses and workshops in clinical neurophysiology, Guatemala, 1995*

In 1994 Nelly Chiofalo (Chile) and neurophysiologists from other countries of Central and South America discussed with the President the situation of clinical neurophysiology in their countries. In the past, the Latin American Society had regularly organized meetings on clinical neurophysiology. But in recent years those meetings were discontinued, the society dissipated, and lost its seat in the Federation General Assembly. In many Latin American countries clinical neurophysiologists do not have their own society, but are incorporated in the neurological society. At present, only the neurophysiologic societies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Uruguay are member societies of the IFCN. In some other countries first steps are being made to build a society for Clinical Neurophysiology. Although there were opportunities for the national societies in Latin America to work with each other on topics and issues of mutual interest, a local organizing committee is lacking. Regional Federation meetings in Latin America would be helpful and consistent with the Federation's mission; a regional organization could facilitate such meetings. The Central and South American representatives expressed their wish to form a new Latin America Society. The

IFCN, besides having contact with the individual Federation member societies, could have contacts within countries without their own society of clinical neurophysiology. In general those countries have too few clinical neurophysiologists to establish their own society and apply for IFCN membership. Some other countries have sufficient clinical neurophysiologists to form their own clinical neurophysiology society, but they prefer not to do so because of their close ties with neurology.

The ExCo agreed to these ideas and needs and asked Nelly Chiofalo to call for a regional meeting for the purpose of organizing a Latin American Society as an IFCN Chapter. This meeting would include as many as possible IFCN Delegates from this region. Enrique Delamónica (Argentina) assisted Dr Chiofalo to organize the ensuing meeting, "Curso Básico y Avanzado en Neurofisiología Clínica and Talleres de Trabajo en Neurofisiología Clínica", which was organized in conjunction with the IX Pan-American Congress of Neurology in Guatemala in October 1995 (Appendix 11, Fig. 11). IFCN co-sponsored the meeting. The President Carl Lüking, Member-at-Large Marc Nuwer and Editor-in-Chief Gastone Celesia represented the IFCN at this meeting. The President delivered an opening address to the assembled representatives.

#### *4.4. VIII European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology, Munich (Germany), 1996*

Two years after the European Congress in Budapest, the VIII European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Munich in October 9–12, 1996. The Congress site was the Plenary Hall of the Technical University of Munich. The Local Organizing Committee consisted of: B. Conrad (Convener), C. Bischoff (Secretary), S. Quasthoff (Treasurer), and the International Advisory Board with representatives from the 23 European Societies (Appendix 11, Fig. 12).

The final programme welcome address by C.H. Lüking (IFCN President), R. Korinthenberg

(President of the German Society of CN), B. Conrad (Convener), and C. Bischoff (Secretary) noted:

*“We are pleased to welcome you to the 8th European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology which was organised under the auspices of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology and the German Society of Clinical Neurophysiology.*

*The meeting is intended to bring together both scientists and practising physicians and covers the latest clinical and research developments in the field of clinical neurophysiology. It will highlight various neurophysiological methods used for the diagnosis and monitoring of affections of the central and peripheral nervous system. Particular emphasis is put on recently developed methods as well as on advances achieved through a combination of neurophysiological and imaging techniques. Nine invited lectures will focus on different neurophysiological techniques as well as on disorders that can be monitored or diagnosed using clinical neurophysiological methods. In addition, in 8 workshops a large number of invited international experts will give an overview about current concepts regarding intra-operative and intensive care monitoring, nerve excitability, magnetoencephalography, neurophysiology of cognition, motor control, pre-surgical epilepsy evaluation, clinical neurophysiology in psychiatry, and neuroimaging. Throughout the conference 60 free communications and about 400 posters will provide intensive coverage of the ‘state of the art’ of clinical neurophysiology. The congress will be followed by advanced courses of clinical neurophysiology designed to give a critical review of well-established and innovative neurophysiological techniques.*

*The social programme commences with a welcome reception in the famous art gallery Neue Pinakothek. A Bavarian evening has been planned to give you an impression of the local traditions. An outstanding sightseeing programme has been arranged to give accompanying persons an opportunity to explore Munich, the beautiful capital of Bavaria, with its cultural treasures and magnificent Alps and lakes.”*

During the Opening Ceremony an Honorary Lecture was given by Wolfgang Singer, Frankfurt (Germany) on temporal coherence as a coding principle in the cerebral cortex. About 800 neurophysiologists attended the congress. Thirty fellowships of US \$600 were granted by the IFCN

for young fellows from 16 European countries. The abstracts of the Morning Sessions, Poster Sessions, and Workshops were published in a special issue of the EEG Journal, October 1996. Overall, this was considered an exciting scientific meeting that was well organized in a wonderful atmosphere and in a splendid place.

## **5. The journal *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology***

At the beginning of the Fiscal Period the journal *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology* was divided into three separate sections: the main set of issues without a subtitle, a section subtitled *Evoked Potentials*, and another section subtitled *Electromyography and Motor Control*. In 1994 a new cover of the Journal went into effect. An electronic version of the EEG Journal became available in 1996.

The two Editors-in-Chief managed an increasing number of manuscripts submitted during these 4 years. Quality of the articles continued its trend of improvement, as did the formally measured journal impact factor (1.872 in 1993 and 2.400 in 1997). Review Articles were introduced to add another dimension to the usefulness and acceptance of the journal. The distribution of the journal was noted to be limited especially in the economically weak countries. To address this, the ExCo unsuccessfully looked for companies to sponsor journal subscriptions to economically disadvantaged areas. Therefore the ExCo initiated direct gifts of subscriptions to societies or medical centres in economically weak areas. For this purpose the Delegates were addressed to identify key institutions that would make the journal accessible for all the neurophysiologists of the city or area.

The total number of subscribers was in decline. It dropped from 2363 in the early 1990s, to 2262 in 1993, and to 1896 in 1995. The ExCo discussed this with Elsevier representatives. The drop was mainly among individual subscribers. Institutional subscriptions dropped much less. Reasons included the proliferation of journals, availability through

academic libraries, and constrains on expenses at departments and laboratories. Actions considered were deeper reductions in individual subscription prices and greater incentives for individuals to maintain their subscriptions. Discussions continued beyond this Fiscal Period.

The ExCo serves as the Editorial Board for the journal. The minutes and meetings are kept separate from the ExCo meeting and minutes. The ExCo, in its role as the Editorial Board, makes decision making about finances, contracts, and other business matters of the journal and other Federation publications. The Editors-in-Chief remain in control of the scientific and content issues of the journal. The Supplements are included in the subscription of the journal. Upon the recommendations of the Editors-in-Chief, Consulting Editors, Book Editors, and Associate Editors are appointed by the ExCo. The ExCo also appoints each Editor-in-Chief. During this 4-year term, the appointment of Western office Editor-in-Chief Gastone Celesia was reaffirmed. Upon the announced intention to resign of European Editor-in-Chief François Mauguère in 1995, an international search was initiated. The ExCo evaluated applications from Geoff Barrett (UK), Jerzy Majkowski (Poland), Milos Matoušek (Sweden), and Paolo Rossini (Italy). The ExCo appointed Paolo Rossini as the new European office Editor-in-Chief effective in 1995.

When Gastone Celesia announced that he would retire at the end of 1999 the ExCo discussed for the first time to return to the previous policy of a single Editor-in-Chief. This was not decided at the time, but continued as a topic for discussion into the next Fiscal period and for the next ExCo.

William Cobb (UK), a past Editor-in-Chief and Federation President, had decided to discontinue his work on language correction for the Journal that he had done for many years. He did so to improve the English of the manuscripts coming from non-English-speaking countries for publication. He was succeeded by Geoff Barrett who served well in that language editing role during this Fiscal Period.

In 1996, the 50th anniversary of the Federation and the Journal was discussed. While it was without any doubt that the Federation was born in 1949, the year of the birthday of the Journal was less certain. Finally the birthday was scheduled for 1999 according to the quotation of William Cobb in a letter from September 1996: "The [Journal's] conception was certainly in 1947 but gestation was rather long and delivery of the first number was not until February 1949".

## 6. Practice guidelines

A Subcommittee on Monitoring in Coma submitted an initial report to the Council and General Assembly at the IFCN Congress held in London 1985. The committee included B. Bergamasco, A. Bricolo, G.-E. Chatrian (Chairman), J.D. Frost, and P. Prior. In 1993 and 1995 this Committee updated the report which was approved by the ExCo and published in the EEG Journal in 1996.

Practice and safety of repetitive transcranial stimulation (rTMS) was a new growing area of interest. A committee was formed to report on this technique. As the rTMS appears destined for use in different disciplines, many outside of clinical neurophysiology, the IFCN felt obliged to create this committee to promulgate standards of techniques and guidelines for indications of this method. The committee was composed of M. Hallett (Chair) A. Pascual-Leone, E. Wassermann, P. Rossini, W. Paulus, C. Epstein, J. Rothwell, C. Tassinari, R.H. Belmaker, H.A. Sackheim, L. Ladegard, and equipment vendor representatives J. Cadwell, and R. Jalinous. The committee continued its work beyond the end of this Fiscal Period.

As digital methods replace analogue ones, another process was undertaken to give guidance to digital techniques and equipment. A committee was constituted composed of Member-at-Large Marc R. Nuwer (Chair), with committee members G. Comi, R. Emerson, A. Fuglsang-Frederiksen, J.-M. Guérit, H. Hinrichs, A. Ikeda, F.J.C. Lucas, and P. Rappelsberger. The

committee was charged to work with manufacturers and users to develop a report for digital equipment when used in clinical settings. The committee sought advice from the Delegates in order to establish the minimum standards for conducting digital EEG and digital neurophysiologic studies. Standards were drafted, circulated and underwent a series of revisions. Open meetings were held to involve manufacturers and any interested persons. These were held at the Kyoto International Congress and at two regional meetings. An eventual consensus was reached, endorsed by the Council at the Florence Congress, and published in the journal.

Concern was raised about commercial firms making claims that their equipment meets the IFCN Digital EEG Standards. The concern was that such a claim may be incorrect, and the Federation should have some control over the use of its name. A process was developed so that vendors could seek IFCN review before using the Federation's name in commercial advertisements, particularly when they make claims that their equipment meets Federation standards. The ExCo wanted to prevent claims of compliance for equipment that is actually not in compliance. On the other hand, the IFCN does not endorse products, nor does it wish to be viewed as such. The concern focused on how vendors could use the IFCN name to say that they comply. They could not use the IFCN logo. The size of font announcing that it meets IFCN digital EEG standards should be informational, not a large advertising banner using the IFCN name. The advertisement must state that the IFCN does not endorse the product. The process would go through the IFCN secretary office. Further concerns were raised about a hold harmless process in case equipment caused damages or injuries. The IFCN may need insurance in case commercial firms are disagreeable about the IFCN withholding its authorization from them. However, given the French registration of the organization, standard insurance could not be found, and not even ordinary directors' and officers' insurance could be found. Eventually this took two

directions. First the published document stated that no commercial advertisements could use the IFCN name to claim compliance unless the IFCN agrees. At the same time, no process was developed to give such an authorization. This led in the next Fiscal Period to questions about liability insurance, which led to inquiries about the legal status of the Federation and the need for an Executive Secretariat and permanent address in order to obtain insurance.

## 7. Finances

At the request of the Vancouver General Assembly for transparency of fiscal policy the ExCo kept a detailed budget for each year. An independent auditor was appointed. In January 1994 ExCo approved a Policy Document for expenditures to ExCo members in accordance with the business practices used by US universities for reimbursement for travel expenses. The policy was endorsed and accepted as enduring Federation policy by the 1995 Kyoto General Assembly (see [Table 13.1](#)).

### 7.1. Budgets and gains

For the first 2 years (1994 and 1995) the total income of US \$475,000 was from member society dues, Elsevier royalties, repayment from congresses, and investment interest. This was balanced by the total expenses of the same period for Editors-in-Chief and ExCo member office expenses, ExCo meetings and travel expenditures, OCIC meetings and travel expenses, International Congress and Chapter meeting subsidies, support for congress fellowships, along with payment for banking, currency exchange, legal and accounting expenses. For the first time the budget was voted on by postal ballot: 18 out of 24 responses of the delegates were in favour, 4 against, 2 were in abstention.

At the 1995 Kyoto General Assembly, Treasurer Paul Despland's budget report was approved. The IFCN assets had increased from

US \$545,365 in 1993 to nearly US \$880,864 in 1995. The profit was mainly through careful spending policies and favourable exchange rate changes. Robert Miller (USA) proposed a motion, “The Executive Committee is charged with developing a long-range financial plan, to be completed before the Florence meeting, in view of our large reserves, to include a re-evaluation of dues structure, fellowships, funding, and the allocation of votes to each society”. Michael Aminoff (USA) congratulated the Treasurer on the favourable fiscal report and extensive details provided for review, and seconded Dr. Miller’s motion that was unanimously approved. This motion was in keeping with the action already underway by the ExCo over the previous 2 years. The Treasurer agreed to modify the budget accordingly when the reserves reached US \$1 million.

By the time of the 1997 Florence General Assembly 2 years later, Treasurer Paul Despland was able to report a favourable 4-year Fiscal Period report and propose to do the same in the next 4 years’ budget. At the end of each year, Mr. Alain Maillard, the external financial advisor audited all the accounting books and the receipts from each ExCo member. Receipts were kept for all expenses over US \$10. The liquid funds, as well as the investments, had been transferred from Crédit Suisse Zürich to the Union Bank of Switzerland in Lausanne. The Union Bank of Switzerland regularly made suggestions for reinvestments when necessary. The essential objective of the investments is to keep safe the Federation assets and derive a reasonable income without any speculation. It has to be noticed that our income is mostly based on the royalties from Elsevier. These royalties were paid in Dutch guilders, which explains why most Federation investments were expressed in this currency. International currency conversion rates adversely affected the total assets in the years 1995–1997, because the income and assets are in Dutch guilders whereas the accounting books are kept in US dollars.

## *7.2. Comparison between 1993 and 1997 assets*

Due to increased income and expense controls during these 4 years, the Federation’s assets rose to US \$865,138, which was almost 60% more than at the beginning of the Fiscal Period. A special reserve account was created of US \$48,000 from favourable financial results in the years 1994 and 1995. This reserve was set aside as a buffer against depreciation of currency rates in the near future. On the other hand, favourable exchange rates could provide appreciable marked profits in the following year. The balance sheet showed a Fiscal Period profit of US \$319,772, and improvement over the previous Fiscal Period profit of US \$86,592.

## *7.3. Budget for 1997–1999*

The Treasurer presented a budget for the next 2 years. Paul Despland was re-elected as Treasurer for the next Fiscal Period, so that he would continue to watch over this next budget too. The Treasurer proposed the motion: “The budget for the next two years should be similar to the budget of previous years.” The motion was approved with one abstention. The General Assembly asked that future budgets be presented with all detail shown down to levels below US \$10,000, and as much additional detail as possible below that level, that is, down to less than US \$2000 wherever possible. This level of detail should be made available both for the Council and General Assembly. The budget presented was renewed for 2 years.

The ExCo was charged with developing a long-range financial plan to be completed before 1999. This plan would include an evaluation of dues structure and fellowship funding. As an endowment strategy, a long-range planning may involve deposit into a non-profit foundation or other accounting processes to isolate the assets from the ordinary operating funds of the IFCN. It would be used for educational purposes. That proposal was approved unanimously. The

Treasurer proposed to set aside a US \$500,000 for this purpose. A Long-Range Financial Planning Task Force was established that included Andrew Eisen (Canada), Kjeld Andersen (Norway), François Mauguère (France) and Robert Miller (USA). The Task Force was charged with developing a plan regarding societies' dues and spending on fellowships. The Task Force was asked to report back at the 1999 Prague meeting. It was discussed that a membership dues reduction would be advantageous for large societies, but not to small societies who have difficulties in paying even small dues amounts thus risking to lose their IFCN membership.

Some societies asked to have their dues waived for reasons of financial difficulty. The ExCo did not agree to those requests. Instead the ExCo indicated that non-paying societies would lose voting rights, but they would retain all other privileges including the right to have fellowship funding for their young members.

#### 7.4. Fellowships

The ExCo in 1996 noted that the Federation provides a much greater number of fellowships compared with other international federations. The ExCo reduced the number of International Congresses fellowships from 100 to 70 and increased the amount awarded from US \$600 to US \$1000. Fellowships for members of the host society that organizes the congress were reduced to US \$500. Thirty fellowships would be awarded for regional meetings; also in this case fellowships for the host society will be halved. The fellowships were awarded on the condition that the scientific work will be first submitted to the EEG Journal like all the work presented at IFCN congresses.

Fellowships were given to individuals not to their societies. Individual candidates from non-dues-paying societies remain eligible to receive fellowships. To make sure that information about fellowships reaches young candidates, the ExCo discussed the possibility to send information about fellowships not only to the Delegate but

also directly to the members of IFCN-affiliated societies. That would reduce the time lag in between when national societies receive this information and when it reaches their members, but could result in fellowships being awarded to candidates not approved by their national society. This issue was discussed with the Delegates. Eventually, information about the fellowships was added to the Congress abstract forms.

#### 8. Gift committee

In the past Fiscal Periods, the Gift Committee under the chairmanship of John Desmedt had provided copies of the *Handbook of Clinical Neurophysiology*. In recent years, nine copies of *Evoked Potentials* Vol. 3 of the Revised Handbook Series was donated to neurophysiologists in China, Thailand, and Poland.

The new Gift Committee consisted of: F. Lopes da Silva (The Netherlands, Chair), M. Gourie-Devi (India), Mario Medici (Uruguay), Slavcho Slavchev (Bulgaria), and Valeria Strelets (Russia). In 1994 the ExCo donated Handbook volumes when requested, provided that such requests are made by institutes or clinics and not by individuals. Due to the previous financial situation of IFCN, neither journal subscriptions nor equipment were to be granted at that time. Any request normally would be submitted by the Delegate and examined and decided by the Gift Committee. The President would then order the handbook from the publishers and send it to the recipient with an accompanying letter.

During this fiscal period, the ExCo broadened its mission by soliciting from industrial companies some donated journal subscriptions from economically disadvantaged societies and institutions. This project to find commercial sponsors failed. Subsequently, once the IFCN finances had improved, the ExCo authorized donations of journal subscriptions financed by the Federation. Delegates were asked to identify key institutions as sites for making the journal accessible to neurophysiologists.

## 9. Secretary's report

IFCN Secretary Giuseppe Caruso actively communicated with the member societies. A continuing task communication is to maintain updated information on the officers and number of members for each society, delegate's name and contact information for the society, its officer and its delegate. The lists needed to be kept updated even with entrance of new societies, withdrawal of another, separation of some into multiples, and joining together of another pair. Many national societies changed their executive offices, officers and delegates, and too often this news was not promptly reported to the IFCN Secretary. This caused communication problems, wasted time, and may have had adverse effects on balloting and submission of fellowship applications. The Secretary needed to work hard to keep the proper lines of communications open. Some IFCN announcements should be transmitted to members of affiliated societies, and often the easiest way is to send notices and announcements to the national societies for distribution. This sometimes ran into delays, for example if the national societies received a communiqué just after sending out their periodic newsletter. To help communicate directly to clinical neurophysiologists, the Secretary requested membership lists from each society for the purpose of some direct mailings. Unfortunately only 14 societies replied with membership lists. Communications with societies and individuals remained an active and continuing task for the Secretary.

The Secretary also had other regular chores. This included preparation of the arrangements for, agenda of, and minutes for twice annual ExCo meetings. In this term, those meetings were held in Vancouver in September 1993, Lyon in January 1994, Freiburg in April 1995, Kyoto in October 1995, San Francisco in March 1996, Beijing in September 1996, Boston in April 1997, and Florence in August 1997. During the same period six postal ballots were held of Council — practically blocking the fax and telephone lines.

The newly developed IFCN ExCo Expense Policy was circulated to the Delegates. Information on the International Congresses was sent out, and invitations to bid on next congresses were organized. As a member of OCIC, the Secretary also was involved in the organization of the Kyoto and Florence Congresses. A report of the Vancouver General Assembly was submitted to and appeared in the journal.

Finally, the Secretary reorganized and standardized the style for the Yellow Pages section in the EEG Journal. The text was sent monthly to Elsevier for monthly publication as the Yellow Pages in a form camera ready for publication. Where possible, in all correspondence to delegates and secretaries of member societies, they were encouraged to use the Yellow Pages to advertise their activities.

ExCo minutes were sent to Delegates after the ExCo approved the minutes. A brief synopsis of each meeting was published in the journal Yellow Pages. This was done to facilitate good communication with and improved participation by the societies in ongoing Federation activities.

Given the amount of correspondence and organization required in the Secretary office, the General Assembly in Kyoto suggested for the first time to consider an executive director or a permanent Secretariat to take over much of the routine work, improve the quality and continuity of information flow, and serve as a possible source of continuity when the Secretary position changes hands.

## 10. IFCN Statutes and Bye-Laws amendments

At the beginning of this Fiscal Period the Vancouver 1993 General Assembly instructed the ExCo to amend several parts of the IFCN Statutes and Bye-Laws. The Rules Committee, consisting of Mark Hallett (USA, Chair), G. Barrett (UK), Jan Daniel Gieu (France 1993–1995), François Mauguère (France 1995–1997), Hans-Christian Hopf (Germany), and Motohiro Kato (Japan), was charged with developing draft wording and

reviewing the justification of the amendments to implement the General Assembly's motions.

The first amendments concerning the role of Council and the eligibility of the ExCo members have been approved by the Council and finally submitted to the General Assembly in Kyoto in 1995.

### *10.1. Executive Committee voting by societies*

The Vancouver General Assembly's requested to change the format of voting for the ExCo members. The previous system gave one vote for each society. The new methods would be like the General Assembly voting with 2, 3, or 4 voted for each society depending on the society's number. However, the ExCo members themselves would be ineligible in this voting, even though they do have voting rights in ordinary General Assembly voting. The Rules Committee drafted the following rule changes. In this and following rules text, the new inserted text is shown in **bold** and the deleted text in strike-through. This set of rules changes were adopted at the Kyoto General Assembly with five abstentions and no vote against.

### *10.2. Statutes*

#### *VI, 2*

The Council is composed of the ExCo together with one delegate from each of the Member Societies. It votes on the proposals submitted to it by the ExCo, on applications for membership of the Federation and ~~on the proposals of the Nomination Committee for the officers of the Federation and the members of Special Commissions, and~~ on any other business appearing on the Agenda.

#### *X*

On recommendations of the ExCo, with the approval of the Council, the General Assembly may set up Special Commissions, each to represent a special branch of Neurophysiology. Each Special Commission shall be composed of three members, one of whom shall be designated Chairman; they will be proposed by the Nomination

Committee and elected by the **member societies similarly to the members of the ExCo Council**. The Chairman will be a member of the ExCo and will advise it of the interests of his speciality. The members will be members of the General Assembly. The President may delegate tasks, such as the organization of specialized meetings, to the appropriate Special Commissions.

#### *XI, 2*

This Committee shall invite nominations from the members of the Council, who may each consult with his parent Society if he/she so wishes for the offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Federation, the Members-at-Large of the ExCo, and those of the Chairman and the two members of each Special Commission to hold office for the following fiscal period. Having ascertained the willingness of the candidates to serve, the Chairman of the Nomination Committee shall submit their names to the postal vote of the **member societies Council**, and inform the Secretary of the result of the ballot. **Each society has the number of votes to which it is entitled in the General Assembly. The ballot is to be sent to the delegate of the society who will be responsible for returning the ballot by the specified date. The vote may be split among the different candidates.**

### *10.3. Executive Committee turnover*

The Vancouver General Assembly expressed concern about individuals serving on the ExCo for an extended period, sometimes serving in various roles over time. In the not too distant past some ExCo members had served continuously for 20 years. The General Assembly asked for a rule to mandate turnover in ExCo membership. Specifically, the motion was that no one should serve more than 12 years, except in the case of a president who could take office after having served 8 years. In the latter case, the president's eventual term would total 16 years. To implement that, the Rules Committee proposed the following rule:

## VII, 3

The President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Federation, the members of Special Commissions and the Members-at-Large of the ExCo are elected by the member societies Council from the nominees of the Nomination Committee. Their term of office is the Fiscal Period. The President, Secretary, Chairmen of Special Commissions and Members-at-Large may serve only one term in office. The Treasurer is eligible for re-election once only. **No person shall serve as an elected or an appointed member of the ExCo for more than 12 years total, except that a person who has served already for 8 years would be allowed to run for President and, if elected, serve for 8 years as President and Past president.**

This was approved at the Kyoto 1995 General Assembly with four abstentions and no vote against.

*10.4. Geographical and disciplinary balance among Executive Committee members*

The ExCo wanted to assure both geographical and disciplinary balance among its members. For geographical purposes, the Federation already used a geographical distinction for the journal *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology*. The journal had two Editors-in-Chief each representing a different geographical region. This could be carried over to the ExCo member elections. The disciplinary designations already in the Statutes mention only two classic designations of EEG and EMG. There was a concern that some of candidates perform both EEG and EMG, and others do neither but engage in other aspects of clinical neurophysiology.

The following rules were submitted to the 1997 Florence Congress Council. Amendments to most paragraphs were unanimously approved. The third paragraph was approved with 25 votes in favour, 3 against, and 3 abstentions.

*Committees, 2*

The Nomination Committee shall ensure **geographical and disciplinary balance in the ExCo**

~~that the Secretary and the Treasurer be elected the one from amongst electroencephalographers and the other from amongst electromyographers. It should also take steps to ensure that the two Members at Large be elected the one from amongst electroencephalographers and the other from amongst the electromyographers.~~

~~The Nomination Committee shall ensure that Members at Large are chosen from geographical areas not already represented on the Executive Committee. Geographical areas are (1) North and South America, Australasia and Japan, and (2) Europe, Asia (except Japan), and Africa. At the time of their nomination, nominees should be given a disciplinary designation of electroencephalographer or electromyographer by the nominating society. The designation should be justified on the basis of practice or research. The Nominating Committee should approve the designation. If the designation is disapproved, the decision may be appealed to the ExCo whose decision is final. The disciplinary designation cannot be changed during a voting cycle. Even if a society is not eligible to vote (Statute XI.2), it may still nominate persons for any position, and its members remain eligible for nomination.~~

**The President and Past-president should preferably be from different geographical regions and cannot be from the same geographical region in more than two consecutive elections. The Secretary and Treasurer should be from different geographical regions. The two Members-at-Large should be from different geographical regions and from countries different from those of the President, Past-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Concerning disciplinary balance, the members should be either four from each discipline or five from one discipline and three from the other.**

**Voting for members of the ExCo should occur in the following sequence: First round: President and Treasurer. Second round: Secretary. Third round: Members-at-Large. For each round, voting should be by written ballot only (post or fax is permitted) and adherence to the deadline is mandatory. To declare an election valid, ballots must**

**be received from at least 50% of the societies eligible to vote (by Statute XVI.2). The deadline can be extended to achieve a quorum. Extension is limited to the time when the quorum is achieved. To win an election, an absolute majority of the votes cast is required, and a run-off election between the top two candidates should be held if necessary. If a society ineligible to vote (Statute XVI.2) becomes eligible during an election, it may initiate participating in the voting when the next round of the election begins.**

#### *10.5. Electioneering by the Nominating Committee*

The Vancouver General Assembly asked to prohibit members of the Nominating Committee from campaigning for one or another candidate in the election. Instead the Nominating Committee should be a neutral body set to assure a fair and organized election process. The nominations and voting should be by the societies without interference from committee members. The ExCo should oversee that the election is conducted in that manner. To implement that motion, the Rules Committee proposed the following text to append to the Nomination Committee section in the Bye-Laws.

##### *Committees, 2*

**The members of the nominating committee should not promote a particular candidate for any office. The nominating committee should report to the ExCo after each step of the election process. The report must include the number of votes for each candidate.**

This Bye-Law was approved unanimously at the Florence Council meeting. In addition to the Bye-Laws, the ExCo adopted an additional policy of its own that the members of the current ExCo should not campaign for any individual in the election.

#### *10.6. Selection of time and place of a subsequent international congress*

The ExCo recommended a great degree of structure in the process for selecting the next congress

site. This amendment asked for more specific information from the presenters about their bids. It also limited the time for presentations, because some presenters were very extensive in marginally relevant portions of their presentation such as videotapes about their country and city in general. The Rules Committee developed the following language to address that need. This was placed among the Bye-Laws on the conduct of the General Assembly. This was approved with one abstention.

**Selection of the time and place of the international congresses should be made at least 4 years in advance. Nominations may be made by any member society. Preference should be given for successive congresses of each type to be in different geographical areas. Nominations must be less than 10 min each and should include both oral and written information about the proposed organizing committee, the congress venue, the hotel arrangements and a preliminary budget. General information about the city or country of the nomination cannot exceed 5 min of the presentation time.**

**The final selection should be by majority vote, each member of the General Assembly casting one vote. After the first round of voting, should no nomination receive a majority, a second round should consider only those nominations receiving the four highest numbers of votes. After the second round of voting, should no nomination receive a majority, a third round should consider only those nominations receiving the two highest numbers of votes.**

#### *10.7. General Assembly voting by mail for amendments*

Concern was raised that some societies have difficulty in sending representatives to General Assembly meetings. Changes in statutes might be conducted more fairly by mail so that all societies have the opportunity to vote. The Rules Committee drafted the following language. The rule was approved with one abstention.

*XVIII*

The present Statutes may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly, the proposed amendments having been accepted by the Council and ~~included in the Agenda~~ **having been discussed at a meeting of the General Assembly. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the General Assembly by mail ballot which may be by post or fax. Each society will be entitled to the number of votes to which it is entitled in the General Assembly. The ballot will be sent to the delegate of the Society, who will be responsible for returning it by the deadline, specifying the number of votes to which that Society is entitled. Each Society will be asked to specify the names of the voting persons, and require their signatures on the ballot. Votes for a Society can be split. To declare a vote valid, ballots must be received from more than 50% of the Societies eligible to vote (by Statute XVI. 2). Adherence to the deadline is mandatory, except that the deadline can be extended to achieve a quorum. Extension is limited to the time when the quorum is achieved.**

*10.8. Council and General Assembly meetings at international congresses*

The Council discussed for the first time the frequency of Council and General Assembly meetings whether they should further be organized only at the ICEEGCN Congress (meeting every 4 years) or also at the IFEMGCN Congress (meeting every 2 years). At this time, the General Assembly ordinarily met only at the quadrennial ICEEGCN meeting, not at the EMG meetings. The discussion raised the further issue about the general tendency was to eliminate the words EEG and EMG from the congresses. On the whole, delegates favoured eliminating the EEG–EMG distinction and agreed to holding the Council and General Assembly meetings every 2 years. This would be effective starting in 2001. No final decision was made. This issue continued into the next Fiscal Period.

*10.9. Named lectureship of the IFCN congresses*

Named lectureships at congresses remained a topic of discussion during this Fiscal Period. Three Honorary Lectures in memory of Edgar Lord Adrian, Hans Berger, and Erik Kugelberg have been sponsored by the IFCN beginning at the 1990 Rio de Janeiro XII International Congress and since then regularly at the ICEEGCNs. A special lecture in honour of Fritz Buchthal was proposed by the Danish society in 1997 to be given in addition to the three honorary lectures. A honorary Buchthal lecture was held at the Florence congress, 1997. This lecture originally was to be sponsored by the instrument company Dantec. Since the ExCo required that sponsors of honorary lectures should be silent sponsors who provided an unrestricted educational grant, Dantec withdrew from sponsoring this lecture. Therefore IFCN provided the financial support for this honorary lecture at the Florence meeting.

Questions continued about whether honorary lectureships should be only named after persons who already passed away and how to avoid that the lectures are named only after European personalities. The 1997 Council recommended further study for the problem of Honorary Lectures with all their many political and cultural aspects, and keeping the Buchthal lecture temporarily while the matter was studied. The Council sent the question of a Buchthal lecture to the ExCo for a careful evaluation. The General Assembly subsequently passed a motion to send the matter back to Council with a recommendation to establish the Buchthal lectureship permanently.

**11. X International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology**

The X International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Kyoto on October 15–19, 1995. The Organization Committee of the International Congress (OCIC) consisted of three appointees from the Japanese Society, Jun Kimura (Convener), Nobuo Yanagisawa

(Secretary), and Koki Shimoji (Treasurer). Organizers from IFCN initially were Jun Kimura (President), John Desmedt (Past-President), Manuel Meyer (Treasurer), and as invited guests Carl Lücking (President Elect) and Giuseppe Caruso (Secretary Elect). Beginning in mid-1993, the IFCN was represented by Carl Lücking (President), Jun Kimura (Past-President), Giuseppe Caruso (Secretary), and Paul Despland (Treasurer). Hiroshi Shibasaki was additionally appointed for the scientific programme and Andrew Eisen as an advisor. The Program Committee represented all the Federation member societies. OCIC meetings were held three times in Kyoto (July 1993), Vancouver (September 1993), and Washington (July 1994). The budget was US \$2 million, of which 1 million came from registration fees, from Japanese Society members' donations, and from the Japanese government. The second million was raised from pharmaceutical manufacturers and donors. The Local Organizing Committee did not engage a professional congress organizer because of the high costs involved. A loan of US \$30,000 was provided by IFCN to cover the initial organizing costs. One hundred fellowships of US \$600 each for young neurophysiologists were paid by the congress organization from congress profits. The social events were designed to be as simple and inexpensive as possible.

Nearly 40 different topics covering many disciplines including EEG and functional imaging as well as disease- and symptom-oriented clinical categories. Although this was an EMG Congresses, and that major topic was maintained in lectures and symposia, the Congress covered EEG free communications. One programme goal was to look to the future of clinical neurophysiology by having relatively young, emerging workers preferred over the already established personalities for symposia faculty.

The OCIC addressed concerns from the previous IFCN Congress in Vancouver. Too many accepted posters were not presented by the authors who did not come to the Congress. Some

poster session Chairmen did not report for their walking poster sessions. The OCIC and the Programme Committee considered the problem of scientifically poor posters, but determined that some authors worked in difficult economic circumstances and were unable to attend the congress unless they presented a poster. The OCIC decided to deal with the absent poster problem by not accepting them into the programme until the presenting authors paid their congress fees.

Two prizes of US \$3000 each for studies on epilepsy were awarded during the congress to authors below the age of 40 years. One prize was dedicated to Henry Gastaut (for Japan, Europe, and Asia) and the other to Herbert Jasper (for America). The aim was to increase the number of studies on epilepsy appearing in the EEG Journal.

In his greeting message in the Second Announcement, President Carl Lücking stressed the IFCN's important missions to impart a high standard of knowledge in the area of clinical neurophysiology, and to promote international cooperation. In a time in which imaging methods and molecular-biological procedures in the diagnosis of neurological diseases are becoming increasingly more important, clinical neurophysiology has needed to work constantly to define and maintain its unique status to evaluate function rather than structure. It must be shown that the different methods complement rather than mutually exclude each other. The International Congress in Kyoto accepted this challenge and aimed to present the importance, the current standards, and future direction of electromyography and clinical neurophysiology.

The venue of the Congress was the Kyoto International Conference Hall that synthesized the best of contemporary design and traditional Japanese architecture. In 1981, the X International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology had been organized in the same Conference Hall.

For the 1995 meeting, the Honorary Presidents were John E. Desmedt, Karl-Erik Hagbarth,

Edward H. Lambert, Teruo Okuma, Yasuo Shimazono, Naoichi Tsuyama. The scientific programme included 3 Special Lectures, 9 Invited Lectures, 12 Symposia, 12 Satellite Symposia, 37 Workshops, 5 Pre-Congress Hands-on Workshops, and about 600 Free Communications as Posters. T. Tsumoto presented the honorary Berger lecture on mechanisms underlying synaptic plasticity in the neocortex. For the Adrian lecture, Stephen Waxman presented a lecture on ion channels and nerve conduction. The Kugelberg lecture was presented by K.-E. Hagbarth on muscle spindles and fusimotor system.

All participants were invited to the social events and receptions: opening ceremony and welcome reception, garden party, and closing ceremony and get-together reception without the need to pay an extra fee for entry to some social events.

The Proceedings of the Congress were published as *Recent Advances in Clinical Neurophysiology*, edited by J. Kimura and H. Shibasaki, in the International Congress Series 1101, by Excerpta Medica, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1996. All manuscripts of Special Lectures, Invited Lectures, Symposia, Workshops, and Satellite Symposia were included.

### *11.1. Kyoto 1995 General Assembly report of the President*

The President remembered two past Federation Presidents, Mary A.B. Brazier and Henry Gastaut, who had passed away in 1995. Marc Nuwer paid tribute to the lifetime achievements of Mary Brazier. François Mauguère did the same for Henry Gastaut. Then the General Assembly held a moment of silence in memory of the two deceased colleagues of enormous importance in the history of the Federation.

The ExCo had been hard at work at and between its four meetings during the previous 2 years. All motions from the 1993 Vancouver General Assembly were prepared for action by the Council and General Assembly in Kyoto. New amendments to

the Statutes and Bye-Laws were worded and approved by the Rules Committee. A number of the new Bye-Laws were approved by the Council in Kyoto. For details, see the above section on IFCN Statutes and Bye-Laws Amendments.

The IFCN budget was approved for each fiscal year, in which specific sums for the individual areas were presented to the delegates for their perusal and comment. For details, see the section above on Finances.

In the middle of 1995 François Mauguère resigned as Editor-in-Chief for Europe, Africa and Asia after an 8-year tenure. During this time the acceptance of the EEG Journal continued to improve and the number of manuscripts increased. The Journal was divided into three sections. The excellent job Dr. Mauguère did for the Journal was especially praised.

Member societies were asked for proposals for a successor to Dr. Mauguère. Several highly qualified persons were suggested. The ExCo unanimously selected Paolo Rossini (Italy) as the new Editor-in-Chief. The main reason for this decision was Rossini's vast experience over the years as the book reviewer for the EEG Journal. At the same time, Nick Murray (UK) was appointed as the new book reviewer.

The President's numerous visits to various countries helped bring together the activities of neurophysiologists in the individual countries in preparation for the founding of new societies. Among other activities, a meeting was held with neurophysiologists in Estonia. The Estonian and Baltic clinical neurophysiologists were encouraged to form a society and apply for Federation membership.

The IFCN proposed a particular successful meeting of the Latin-American societies on the occasion of the 1995 Pan-American Congress in Guatemala. A day-long Basic and Advanced Course of Clinical Neurophysiology was organized as a satellite meeting to the Pan-American Congress of Neurology. The Clinical Neurophysiology courses were a great success as far as the participation, the quality of lectures, and the practical work

were concerned. During that day, the Latin American societies held a business meeting that was the first step in founding a Latin American Chapter of the IFCN. Several Latin American countries have shown an interest in founding their own national societies and becoming member societies of the IFCN.

Contacts to the Eastern European societies were strengthened by the President's visits to Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania. These visits identified the numerous difficulties, especially of economic nature, in this region at that time. The President recommended that these circumstances should be taken into consideration in future policy-making.

All in all, the 2 years 1993–1995 were successful in consolidating the IFCN finances, in gaining increased participation from the individual societies in IFCN decision-making, in the founding of regional chapters, and in forming new societies in various countries. Goals for the years 1995–1997 were increased attention to the subject matter of clinical neurophysiology and competition with the new imaging technology. The President encouraged that the international congresses and regional meetings provide basic and advanced courses on the new topics, and the Federation develop standards for new technology.

### *11.2. Kyoto 1995 General Assembly report of the Secretary*

The Secretary's report, usually covering 4 years, in Kyoto covered a 2-year period because of the extra General Assembly meeting at Kyoto called by the 1993 Vancouver General Assembly. Former IFCN Secretary, Barry Tharp, was helpful for smoothing the transition in the Secretary offices and duties, and for redirecting relevant documents and material to Naples.

A first and continuing task was to communicate with the secretaries of IFCN member societies to obtain contact information on the officers of the individual societies and the number of members. The secretarial office reorganized and standardized

the style of the Yellow Pages and prepared 25 issues for publication. The Secretary organized and circulated agendas for four ExCo meetings, and wrote and circulated the minutes. During those 2 years the secretarial office organized four postal ballots, practically blocking fax and telephone lines. The office circulated for comment the IFCN ExCo Expense Policy Document. The Secretary requested authorization from delegates to release or otherwise provide mailing lists of their officers. The office invited applications from member societies to organize the 1999 EMG International Congress. These 2 years also saw an abundant exchange of correspondence with the Chairman of the IFCN Rules Committee concerning mainly changes to the IFCN Statute and Bye-Laws. Where possible, in all correspondence to delegates and secretaries of member societies, the office encouraged them to use the Yellow Pages to advertise their activities.

The Secretary organized the presentations at the Kyoto Congress of those societies bidding for the 1999 ICEMGCN. Those societies were Argentina, the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia. At the time of the 1993 Vancouver Congress, the General Assembly requested that the site of the next ICEMGCN should be voted on during the Kyoto Congress. This was different from the usual process in which the ExCo chooses the EMG Congress site upon recommendations made by the EMG Commission and national societies. Kyoto was different in part because the General Assembly chose to meet during this EMG Congress, whereas it usually only met at the quadrennial International Congresses of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. By the time of the Kyoto Congress applications had been received from Argentina, the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia to host the next EMG Congress. Each national society presented its proposed congress venue site, proposed budget and registration fees, the names of the organizers, and information about the city and region. The result of the voting was: Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22, Czech Republic (Prague) 39, Yugoslavia (Belgrade) 3. Therefore,

the next International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology was scheduled for Prague in spring 1999.

## **12. XIV International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology**

### *12.1. 50th anniversary of the International Congresses*

The XIV International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology celebrated the 50th anniversary International Federation Congresses. It was held in Florence, August 24–29, 1997. The Organizing Committee of International Congress (OCIC) consisted of IFCN officers Carl Lücking (President), Jun Kimura (Past-President), Giuseppe Caruso (Secretary), Paul Despland (Treasurer), and the officers from Italy Roberto Zappoli (Convener), Giancarlo Comi (Secretary), and Domenico de Grandis (Treasurer). Four OCIC meetings were held: in Florence in July 1995, in Kyoto in October 1995, and in Milan and San Francisco in 1996. The budget was about US \$1 million. The scientific programme included Plenary Sessions, Special Lectures, Poster Sessions, Seminars, Advanced Courses, Hand-on Workshops, Didactic Lectures, News, Video Demonstrations, and Satellite Symposia. The fellowships for young investigators were raised from US \$600 to \$1000. Seventy fellowships in total were provided in Florence for fellows not older than 35 years in general.

In the Second Announcement and Call for Abstracts the IFCN-President invited the world community of clinical neurophysiologists to the ancient and famous city of Florence. He emphasized that “the Congress will address all aspects of clinical neurophysiology. The structure of the Congress will be in line of the preceding meetings in offering special and didactic lectures, plenary and poster sessions, advanced courses, seminars, workshops, and satellite symposia. For the first time the presentations within the plenary sessions will be partly chosen from the

abstracts. Therefore, all scientists including active young research fellows are kindly asked to submit their papers.

There is no doubt that the field of clinical neurophysiology has experienced many technical advances in the past several decades. But at the same time an increasing amount of experience has been gained in new imaging techniques and applied molecular biology. It is one of the major aims of the International Congress to demonstrate that all these methods compliment rather than mutually exclude one another. In addition, the Congress provides a unique opportunity to review the latest advances in clinical neurophysiology and also the clinical application of the electrophysiological studies. It will be demonstrated that clinical neurophysiology remains an important tool to understand and diagnose disorders of the nervous system.”

The 14th ICEEGCN was held at the Palazzo dei Congressi and Centro Affari of Florence. Honorary Presidents were P. Pinelli, E. Lugaresi, C. Ajmone Marsan, T. Okuma, H. Petsche, and A.M. Halliday. The scientific programme included 4 Special Lectures, 9 Didactic Lectures, 27 Plenary Sessions, 15 Breakfast Workshops, 20 Hands-on Workshops, 886 Poster Presentations, and Satellite Symposia. There were about 1500 participants from 45 different countries. All participants were invited to attend the social events, which were an opening ceremony (Appendix 11, Figs. 13 and 14) at the Palazzo Vecchio (the 13th Century City Hall), concert in the Church of Santa Croce, banquet, and a farewell party.

The opening lecture “Mapping the human nervous system in health and disease” was given by J.C. Mazziotta. J. Kimura presented the Kugelberg Lecture on “Principles and pitfalls of nerve conduction studies”. The Buchthal Lecture on “Acute and chronic demyelinating polyneuropathy” was presented by W. Trojaborg. The Congress proceedings were published as *Clinical Neurophysiology: From Receptors to Perception*, edited by G. Comi, C.H. Lücking, J. Kimura and P.M. Rossini. That book was

Vol. 50 in the *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology Supplement* series, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1999.

### 12.2. The opening address of the IFCN President at the Palazzo Vecchio

President Carl Lücking addressed the Opening Ceremony (Appendix 11, Fig. 13):

*“On behalf of the IFCN I would like to welcome you to the 14th International congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. I am pleased and very grateful to see so many neurophysiologists having decided to attend this meeting. Florence is truly a wonderful place and worth visiting. But it is also the outstanding programme which is indeed very attractive. I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee and the local organizers, especially Professor Zappoli, the convener, and Prof. Comi, the secretary, for having organized this exciting congress.*

*This is the 14th International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. Since the first international meeting in London in 1947 under the chairmanship of Lord Adrian, every 4 years an International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology has been organized without any exception. Therefore this year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International Congresses of IFCN. This is, however, not identical with the 50th anniversary of the Federation and the EEG Journal. The Federation was founded in 1949 and the first issue of the EEG Journal appeared in the same year. We are looking forward to celebrating that anniversary in Prague in two years.*

*Until 1961, EEG was the main field of interest of the Federation and at that time there was considerable resistance to the idea of deliberately expanding the scope of the Federation. But when EMGers and ENGers arranged a meeting in Pavia in 1961 and planned to set up their own Federation, the IFCN gave way to an EMG Commission within the Federation and to a direct representation in the Executive Committee. Since that time, an International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology is organized every 4 years, with a 2-year interval from the EEG Congress. The meeting in Prague in 1999 will be the 11th International Congress of EMG.*

*But for some time the size and the scope of both congresses have become virtually the same. And it is obviously becoming more and more anachronistic to separate neurophysiology, the IFCN Congresses, and also the IFCN officers on the basis of EEG and EMG, disregarding the fact that clinical neurophysiology comprises meanwhile several other sub-specialities. During this congress in Florence we have to discuss whether we want to continue having an International Congress virtually every 2 years or only every 4 years as it is provided in our Constitution.*

*When I look at the program of this congress there is no doubt in my mind that we will have an outstanding meeting. Latest advances in clinical neurophysiology as well as current clinical applications of established electrophysiological studies will be presented. Simultaneous updates of clinical disorders will provide comprehensive statements of pathogenic mechanisms and new therapies. Despite the progress and value of imaging techniques and their use for functional analyses, this congress will demonstrate that clinical neurophysiology remains essential for our ability to understand and diagnose disorders of the nervous system.*

*It is my pleasure now to officially declare the 14th International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology open. And as our Constitution is bilingual I want to add: C'est un grand honneur pour moi d'ouvrir officiellement le Quatorzième Congrès d'EEG et de la Neurophysiologie Clinique.”*

### 12.3. Award presentations

The winners of these two awards were selected by the two Editors-in-Chief. The awards consisted of a Certificate and a cheque of US \$3500, funded partly by IFCN and partly by Elsevier Science. The awards were named after William Cobb, who served as Editor of the EEG Journal from 1962 to 1973 and as Federation President from 1973 to 1977, and after Mary Brazier, who was Editor of the EEG Journal from 1973 to 1983 and Federation President from 1961 to 1965. During the Opening Ceremony the Cobb Award was presented to Giampiero Zanette (Italy) and the Brazier Award to Daniel Javitt (USA).

The Moruzzi Prize, sponsored by the IFCN and co-sponsored by Elsevier Science, was awarded for the first time. The award — a gold medal — is named after the great Italian neuroscientist Giuseppe Moruzzi, head of the Institute of Physiology in Pisa, who lived from 1910 until 1986. It was presented to Elio Lugaresi (Italy) for his lifetime's devotion to clinical neurophysiology.

#### 12.4. President's report to the General Assembly

President Carl Lücking addressed the General Assembly:

*“At the end of my Presidency I would like to give a short report on the main achievements of the Executive Committee during the last 4 years. Two years ago in Kyoto, I already presented an interim report as requested by the General Assembly of Vancouver.*

*When I assumed the Presidency I was not aware that the Federation had developed towards a difficult situation. It was not before the General Assembly in Vancouver that I realized the Federation was facing a lot of conflicts. The new Executive Committee left Vancouver with several precise requests from the General Assembly. Meanwhile all these proposals and requests have led to amendments of the Statutes and Bye-Laws that already passed the Council or will be voted on in this meeting. The Delegates are informed on a regular basis about the decisions of the Executive Committee and the financial situation.*

*Due to the excellent work of our Treasurer, Paul Despland, the discipline of all officers, and the important income from the EEG Journal, and despite the number of member societies, who do not pay their annual dues, the IFCN is now in the position to create a foundation as a financial backbone. The idea is to use the interest from this endowment to finance the fellowships and other kinds of support in order to foster the clinical neurophysiology. Paul Despland will provide more details in his report.*

*Another area of activity was devoted to get new member societies of the IFCN, especially in Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. We succeeded in having Croatia, Slovakia, and Slovenia as new members from Eastern Europe, Korea and Taiwan from Asia and Cuba from Latin*

*America. New societies have been founded in Costa Rica and Egypt, which will soon apply for membership. Egypt will then be the only African society because unfortunately South Africa has recently cancelled its membership.*

*There is a new approach to form subgroups of the IFCN member societies in order to organize regional meetings and to standardize neurophysiologic training. Accordingly, IFCN Chapters have been formed in Asia, Europe and Latin America. For each Chapter there is a liaison officer in the IFCN ExCo; the chairman of the Chapter will give an annual personal report to the ExCo. I am convinced that the Chapters will be able to facilitate the contact of the member societies with the ExCo and among each other.*

*I would like to mention the enormous and successful work of the Editors-in-Chief of our Journal. The number of submitted manuscripts has increased and the quality of the articles is continuously improving. The introduction of Review Articles to the journal will lead to a further increase of acceptance worldwide. Unfortunately, the distribution of the EEG Journal is still limited. This is especially true for the financially weak countries. Last year we started a first campaign by asking companies to be generous enough to provide a certain amount of money that would be used for the subscription to the EEG Journal being sent to the financially disadvantaged countries. Of more than 20 companies only two responded and declined such a sponsorship. Recently we have started a new approach in asking the Delegates of financially weak countries to list key institutes or hospitals where the EEG Journal could be placed in order to be available to neurophysiologists from this area. I will then ask the companies again to be willing to sponsor a limited number of subscriptions directly to these institutes. I hope that the second campaign will be more successful.*

*It is one of the main goals of the IFCN to foster clinical neurophysiology when, where, and how ever possible. In the past we discussed the formation of a special commission for teaching and for standardizing clinical neurophysiology. The idea was postponed for the time being because of the new Chapters which declared the training as one of their main aims. But for the special issue of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) we recently formed a Special Committee under the chairmanship of Mark Hallett. As rTMS is going to be used in different disciplines*

mainly outside of clinical neurophysiology, the IFCN felt obliged to create this committee that should elaborate standards of techniques and indications of this method.

*Looking back on the past 4 years I personally feel that the IFCN ExCo has been successful in stabilizing and enlarging the Federation, in supporting the advances in clinical neurophysiology, and in demonstrating convincingly that clinical neurophysiology remains an indisputable instrument in neuroscience."*

### 12.5. Decision for the 2001 congress site

The General Assembly decided on the site for the IFCN Congress in 2001. The ExCo and the Council favoured eliminating the words EEG and EMG from the title of the congresses, but no definitive decision was made yet. Argentina, Germany, and Yugoslavia presented applications to host the 2001 congress. Germany and Argentina presented last-minute applications. It was decided that bids for the next congress should be submitted at least 6 months before the General Assembly to give more time to evaluate the bids. Presentations to host the 2001 congress were presented by Dr. Medina for Buenos Aires (Argentina), Dr. Deuschl for Berlin (Germany) and Dr. Martinovic for Belgrade (Yugoslavia). Voting representatives present were 88 delegates, society officers, and ExCo members. A majority required 45 votes. In the first round of voting, no site obtained a majority: Argentina 40 votes; Germany 36 votes; Yugoslavia 7 votes. In a run-off

ballot 47 were for Argentina and 36 for Germany. The General Assembly declared Argentina the organizer of the 2001 Congress.

### 12.6. Honorary gavel

The President ended the General Assembly meeting by thanking everyone and passed the Federation's honorary gavel, the Nyoi-Bo, to the new President Marc Nuwer, who awarded certificates to the previous ExCo members as a sign of gratitude for their service to the Federation.

## 13. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consisted of Jun Kimura (Past-President, Chair), Aurora Constantinovici (Romania), Robert Miller (USA), Juan Santoni (Dominican Rep.). New constitutional restraints were applied for this election cycle. The two Members-at-Large should be from countries different from that of the President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The members of the Nominating Committee should not promote a particular candidate for any office. According to the ExCo's own new policies, no member of the ExCo should campaign for or contact Delegates to support any candidate. The principle was that nominations and election should reflect the view of the member societies.

The ExCo for the 1997–2001 Fiscal Period will consist of:

President	Marc R. Nuwer	EEG	Region 1	USA
Past President	Carl H. Lücking	EMG	Region 2	Germany
Secretary	Hiroshi Shibasaki	EMG	Region 1	Japan
Treasurer	Paul A. Despland	EEG	Region 2	Switzerland
Member-at-Large	David Burke	EMG	Region 1	Australia
Member-at-Large	Günther Deuschl	EMG	Region 2	Germany
Editor-in-Chief	Gastone Celesia	EEG	Region 1	USA
Editor-in-Chief	Paolo Rossini	EMG	Region 2	Italy