

Chapter 16

2006–2010

President: Hiroshi Shibasaki

In this term, the Federation continued to expand educational conferences and opportunities. The journal remained prominent and successful. Chapters developed and expanded their regional plans for activities. The Canadian incorporation was completed in the previous term, and now the Executive Office joined the legal address in Vancouver.

The Executive Committee was President Hiroshi Shibasaki (Japan), Past-President François Mauguière (France), Treasurer Andrew Eisen (Canada), and Members-at-Large Daniel Cibils (Uruguay) and Kerry Mills (UK). During the first year Secretary Johannes Noth (Germany) resigned to accept a position as Dean of Medical Faculty of Aachen Technical University. Reinhard Dengler (Germany) replaced him as Federation Secretary. Mark Hallett (USA) completed his 8 years as Editor-in-Chief during this term. David Burke (Australia) succeeded him (see Appendix 11, Figs. 31 and 33).

For the first time, the General Assembly approved its minutes by mail as allowed in the new rules. Official General Assembly minutes were available promptly instead of 4 years later. This allowed for timely publication in the journal.

In the previous Fiscal Period, the Executive Secretariat was contracted through Concorde Services Ltd (UK). The Executive Committee found it important to have the Secretariat nearer to one or another Executive Committee member's home city so as to allow for easier access and communication. A search was conducted for a replacement Secretariat. After having looked at several

possibilities, Venue West of Vancouver was chosen because it best met the Federation's needs and budget. Venue West and the Federation signed a new 4-year Executive Secretariat contract in January 2007. The contract was set to run through 2011. Ms. Stephanie Hudson served as the IFCN Executive Director. All Federation materials relocated from Concorde to Vancouver shortly thereafter. Contact details for Venue West were:

International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology, Venue West Conference Services Ltd., Suite 645 – The Landing, 375 Water Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 5C6, congress@venuewest.com

This book was written in 2009 before the 2006–2010 term was completed. The reader should note that this chapter does not cover actions accomplished during the final 16 months of this Fiscal Period.

1. Congresses and meetings

This term included a growing number of meetings. Several additional sponsored meetings accompanied the standard International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ICCN) and three Chapter Congresses. The Federation provided financial support for each Chapter for support of regional and local meetings in addition to the Chapter formal quadrennial congress. Individuals interested in organizing an educational course or workshop were encouraged to contact the respective Chapter.

1.1. XXIX International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology

The ICCN is scheduled for October 28 to November 2, 2010 in Kobe, Japan. The Organizing Committee for the International Congress (OCIC) ExCo includes five members from the Federation Executive Committee and four from among the local organizers. The OCIC for the 2010 Kobe ICCN is Federation President Hiroshi Shibasaki (Japan), Past-President François Mauguière (France), and Treasurer Andrew Eisen (Canada) as well as the Editor-in-Chief Mark Hallett (USA), then David Burke (Australia) from ExCo, and the new Federation Secretary Reinhard Dengler (Germany). The Japanese organizing society includes Hiroshi Shibasaki as Convener, Ryuji Kaji as Congress Secretary General, Shin-ichi Niwa as Treasurer and Ryusuke Kakigi as Program Committee Chair.

The Executive Committee asked that each Chapter's President and Liaison Officers serve on the Congress's Scientific Program Committee. Thus, Paolo Rossini and Kerry Mills from the European Chapter, Jose Xavier de Castro and Daniel Cibils from the Latin American Chapter, and Rawiphan Witoonpanich from the Asian-Oceanian Chapter were invited and agreed to join that Committee. This will add a further international contribution to the Congress's scientific program planning and recognize the growing importance of Chapters in the Federation's activities.

Meeting preparation went smoothly except for some difficulty in the fund-raising because of the worldwide economic recession. Scientific Program Committee Chairperson Ryusuke Kakigi circulated the proposed program to international members of the Committee in February 2009, and suggestions made by the international members were taken into account as much as possible. General plans for the congress, venue, facilities, budget, program, and hotel rooms were satisfactory. The Second Announcement, circulated in July 2009, described a call for papers in October

2009 with an abstract submission deadline in January 2010. IFCN decided again to support fellowship grants for young investigators, age 40 or below, whose abstracts were accepted for presentation.

1.2. Chapter Congresses

The V Latin American Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Puebla, Mexico in October 2008. Jaime Ramos-Peek served as the Local Organizing Committee Chairman with organizing committee officers including Jorge Burgos-Centeno, Sergio de Jesus Aguilar-Castillo and Lilia de la Maza-Kreptowsky. The meeting had been originally scheduled for Varadero Beach, Cuba in March 2008, but was rescheduled for organizational reasons. Delegates from most South American national member societies attended despite the distance. This meeting marked the first occasion for a Chapter meeting in the northern portion of the Latin American region.

The XIII European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology was held in May 2008 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Congress Convener Professor Onder Us welcomed 820 registrants. The meeting included more than 400 scientific contributions in lectures and posters. Eleven young investigators were recognized with a monetary prize given in the name of Prof. Korkut Yaltkaya, a highly respected Turkish neuroscientist. Besides the scientific activity, the Congress was also successful in offering a rich and lively social program, with the Faculty and Gala dinners taking place in enchanting and historical buildings of the old Istanbul, with terrific views of the Bosphorus and its coloured nocturnal life.

The IV Asian and Oceanian Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (AOCCN) was held in April 2009 in Seoul, Korea. The Korean Society for Neurophysiology hosted the meeting with the theme "AOCCN in Cultural Variety: Momentum of Revival". Kwang-Woo Lee served as Convener, Juhan Kim as Secretary General and Jae-Moon Kim as Scientific Chairman. Over 700 clinical neurophysiologists participated from 37 countries around the world.

1.3. Other meetings

The International Consensus Meeting for Electrodiagnostic Criteria for Diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) took place in Awaji, Japan in December 2006. Ryuji Kaji and Andrew Eisen organized the consensus conference. A draft of diagnostic criteria was prepared by the participants, circulated for comment and revisions, and was submitted to the journal *Clinical Neurophysiology*. The goal was to provide criteria useful not only to the practitioner but also for entry criteria in scientific therapeutic drug trials for proposed ALS treatments.

A Clinical Neurophysiology Symposium was held in conjunction with the 30th Annual Meeting of Taiwan Neurological Society in Taipei in April 2007. Yang-Chyuan Chang served as the convener. The IFCN Executive Committee members participated as speakers in the symposia and shared current topics of interest with local clinical neurophysiologists. This was the fourth time that the Federation participated in symposia in China, with the first three being in Beijing over the previous two decades.

IFCN President Hiroshi Shibasaki participated in the scientific meeting of Chinese Society of EMG & Clinical Neurophysiology. Li Ying Cui chaired the scientific meeting. Prof. Shibasaki also had the opportunity to meet with members of the Chinese society's executive committee.

A workshop on Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Bangalore, India in April 2007. Mustare Veerendrakumar served as the convener. The meeting was well attended and very successful. This was the first time that the Federation sponsored a meeting in India.

The Latin American Neurophysiological Monitoring Symposium was held in Montevideo, Uruguay in April 2007. This achieved a standing room only attendance from South American clinical neurophysiologists interested in surgical monitoring techniques and science.

The Second Latin American Symposium of Neurophysiological Monitoring was held 2 years later in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The Neurological

and Neurosurgical Society of Rio Grande do Sul and the Brazilian Academy of Neurology also held sessions. The overall registration exceeded 500 (see Appendix 11, Fig. 34).

A Conference on Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Safety was held in Siena, Italy in March 2008. Paolo Rossini served as the convener for this conference, which was held under Federation sponsorship. The results of this meeting formed the basis for an IFCN Practice Guidelines on this topic.

More detail on some of these meetings is given below in the section on the Chapters.

2. Publications

The journal *Clinical Neurophysiology's* impact factor has steadily increased. It reached 2.972 in 2009, a record high for this journal and exceeding the previous record high of 2.86 that this journal reached in the late 1990s. In the impact factor rankings, the journal continues to place it higher than any other in this specialty or subspecialty.

The Italian and Japanese Societies each have adopted *Clinical Neurophysiology* as its official journal. Society members were required to subscribe to the journal. In this arrangement, the societies received a deep discount on the subscription price. Some other societies also planned to adopt *Clinical Neurophysiology* as the society's official journal with discounted member subscriptions.

The IFCN Secretariat handled the regular individual journal subscriptions that were available at a specially discounted rate for members of IFCN national societies. The arrangement changed so that Elsevier directly processed renewals and collections of subscription fees. The Federation Secretariat became responsible for ascertaining that the individuals were members in good standing of their respective national societies. The electronic access to *Clinical Neurophysiology* changed to access through Science Direct rather than through the IFCN web site. These changes facilitated easy administration.

The Yellow Pages society information section printed in *Clinical Neurophysiology* was used less

in these days of readily available on-line information. Because of the more popular use of the IFCN website for society, Federation and meeting information, the Yellow Pages were canceled starting from the 2007 April issue of the journal.

2.1. Editor-in-Chief

The Editor-in-Chief position of *Clinical Neurophysiology* was opened for a worldwide search. Outgoing Editor-in-Chief Mark Hallett completed his 8-year term at the end of 2007, and was ineligible to serve another term. The Federation terms for the Editor-in-Chief are 4 years, renewable once. The Federation Executive Committee, in its role as the journal's Executive Board, appoints the Editor-in-Chief as well as the subsidiary editors. The Executive Board published a call for candidates in as many sources as possible and made an announcement of this opening in many forums. Applications were received from nine excellent candidates by January 2007 deadline. David Burke (Australia) was selected as the next Editor-in-Chief for the term beginning January 2008. Prof Burke previously had served the Federation as an Executive Committee Member-at-Large during the 1997–2001 term.

Several Associate Editor positions were revised. In part this was to limit service to 6 years. The Associate Editors serve several functions. They have special expertise in particular areas of clinical neurophysiology and can bring that expertise to decision making about acceptance of submissions. They also represent different geographic locations, so as to keep the journal aware of developments in those locations. The Associate Editors were Fabio Babiloni (Italy), Anders Fuglsang-Frederiksen (Denmark), Matthew Kiernan (Australia), Christian Krarup (Denmark), Cees J. Stam (Netherlands), Craig Tenke (USA), Y. Ugawa (Japan), Josep Valls-Solé (Spain), and Ulf Ziemann (Germany). The position of Book Review Editor was abolished at this point because of the smaller number of reviewed books being received.

2.2. Other publication issues

The program of Friends of IFCN was established in the previous Fiscal Period for individual subscribers to *Clinical Neurophysiology*. It provided a forum for direct feedback to the editors from individual subscribers as well as prerequisites for those subscribers. It was designed to encourage the growth of individual subscribers to the journal. This program's impact and financial advantages were modest at best, both for IFCN and individual subscribers. As a result, the Executive Board decided to discontinue the program.

The Reed Elsevier Group was actively engaged in the International Arms Fairs Exhibitions for a number of years. Elsevier Science Publishers is a business branch of Reed Elsevier. The journal's Executive Board found this situation inadvisable for the Elsevier Publisher, which publishes materials related to life science and medicine. The Executive Board wrote to the Chairman of the Reed Elsevier Group signed by the IFCN President and the Editor-in-Chief. The Federation's letter asked them to discontinue their military activity. Other medical and scientific societies wrote similar letters. In 2009 Reed Elsevier announced their decision to exit the defense exhibition sector.

The Federation sponsors two book series, the *Handbook of Clinical Neurophysiology* and the *Clinical Neurophysiology Supplement Series*. In 2008, the Executive Committee commissioned a history book with the preliminary title "History of the IFCN". The goal was to extend the previous Federation history work written nearly three decades earlier by former Federation President and journal Editor-in-Chief William Cobb (UK). That book, entitled *Wavelength: A History of the IFSECN*, was given to each registrant at the London 1985 International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology. The new work will be provided to all participants in the Kobe 2010 XXIX International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology. It will also be made available online to all journal subscribers and published as a *Clinical Neurophysiology Supplement Series* book.

3. Societies and Chapters

3.1. Member societies

By this point the Federation had expanded to 60 member national societies from 56 countries. Four countries, Belgium, China, Colombia and the United States, each have two member societies. The Executive Committee explored other countries with sufficient clinical neurophysiologists, and which might be encouraged to join the Federation. New member societies accepted in 2008 were Irish Society of Clinical Neurophysiology and the Clinical Neurophysiology Section of Malaysian Society of Neurosciences. An Icelandic society was attending European Chapter activities but was not yet a member society of IFCN. New Zealand joined the Australian Society, which changed its name to Australia–New Zealand Association of Clinical Neurophysiologists.

At the beginning of this Fiscal Period, communication was difficult with member societies in Greece, Iran, Slovak Republic, Jordan, and China PRC. At the 2006 Edinburgh ICCN, contact was re-established with Professor Cui Li Ying, the Delegate of the Chinese Society, and Shahriar Nafissi represented the Iranian Clinical Neurophysiology Branch of the Iranian Neurological Association. IFCN President Hiroshi Shibasaki visited Beijing subsequently and met with the members of the Chinese Society Executive Committee. Maintaining good, open communication with each member society has always been a priority for the Federation. Yet it is also a big challenge because of unreported changes of delegates or their contact information.

3.2. International Clinical Neurophysiology Society

The International Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ICNS) is a member organization approved by General Assembly that plays a role as if it were a national society. This brought a total to 60

member societies. That includes 59 member national societies plus the ICNS.

The main role for ICNS is to serve as a home base for clinical neurophysiologists from countries that do not have their own national member society. Individuals can apply for membership in the ICNS. Once a country has 10 clinical neurophysiologists in ICNS, the intention is that they would form their own national society and apply for Federation membership. During this term the ICNS President was Daniel Cibils (Uruguay). An application form was available on the IFCN website. Members of ICNS may sign up for journal subscriptions at the discounted rate, may nominate institutions for Federation sponsored journal subscriptions. The ICNS also may nominate individuals for young physician and investigator scholarships for training or research experiences abroad, and nominate young investigators for travel fellowships to attend ICCN or Chapter meetings.

The ICNS actively encouraged individual membership from clinical neurophysiologists in countries such as Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan, Senegal, Ethiopia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Ecuador, Honduras, and Venezuela. ICNS served as a means to communicate with these individuals.

3.3. European Chapter

The Chapter expanded its scope to include member societies in the Middle East and Africa. With the expanded region covered by the Europe, Middle East and Africa Chapters, the existing societies from Egypt, Jordan and Iran joined the Chapter. As a new society, Ireland joined the Federation and the Chapter. During this term, the Executive Committee from 2005 to 2009 included President Paolo Rossini (Italy), Secretary/Treasurer Luis García-Larrea (France), Liaison Officer Professor Kerry Mills (UK), and Member-at-Large Anders Fuglsang-Frederiksen (Denmark). For the other Member-at-Large position, Teresa

Sagalés' (Spain) term ended in 2008. She was replaced by Jonathan Cole (UK).

The XIII European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology attracted 820 registrants to Istanbul, Turkey in 2008. The Congress Convener Professor Onder Us organized the meeting along with Dr Tullin Taridag. The scientific and educational sessions included 412 original scientific contributions and 100 invited speakers. A total of 60 fellowships were awarded to assist young physicians and investigators to attend the meeting. The Congress awarded 11 prizes to the best scientific presentations. The General Assembly of the European Chapter has also voted the site of the next congress after having highly appreciated the nice presentations of Prof. Topka of the Austrian Society supporting Innsbruck and of Prof. Comi of the Italian Society supporting Rome. The Delegates expressed their votes (22–15) in favor of having the next congress in Rome in 2011.

The Chapter developed Bye-Law changes for elections that took into account the new quadrennial cycle for Chapter congresses and the 1-year delay in the cycle for International Congresses. These would clarify the overlap of terms of office of Chapter Executive Committee members so that only some were replaced or re-elected in each election cycle.

The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) oversees specialty organizations in Europe. Eva Svanborg (Sweden) represented Clinical Neurophysiology in European discussions about medical specialties. One goal was to develop uniform training standards, and a core curriculum for Clinical Neurophysiology was published in 2008. The recommended duration of training was 5 years for an independent medical specialty, and fewer years in national systems in which clinical neurophysiology is a subspecialty. Whether to have a European board examination was discussed, as opposed to relying solely on each nation to develop and maintain its own examinations in Clinical Neurophysiology. That remained a topic of discussion. Uniform standards for Continuing Medical Education were also discussed.

Chapter Secretary Luis García-Larrea conducted a survey of Educational Programs of Clinical Neurophysiology in European Countries. This was based on previous work by G. Cruccu, T. Sagalés, A. de Weerd and E. Stålberg. The survey assessed the types and length of training, a national board, content of training, and status of the specialty.

The 4-year interval between ECCN meetings led to further consideration of holding a smaller, single topic meeting during each 4-year term. The EC-IFCN has supported many regional conferences on particular topics. Most included 1–2 days of teaching or training. Both audio-conferences and regional courses have been sponsored. EC-IFCN financial contributions went toward defraying costs of faculty travel and preparations of handout materials. From 2005 through 2008, these meetings included: Evoked Potentials (Haifa, Israel), Motor Control (Madrid, Spain), Sleep Medicine (Copenhagen, Denmark and Vilnius, Lithuania), rTMS Safety (Siena, Italy), Cortical Stimulation (Paris, France), Laser EPs (Lyon, France), EMG (Prague, Czech Rep.), EMG–ENG (Granada, Spain and Belgrade, Serbia), and Clinical Neurophysiology (Lisbon, Portugal).

The election cycles were discussed. With the change in ECCN timing from every 2 years to every 4 years, it threw off the timing of the elections for Chapter Officers. Bye-Law changes were planned to rectify that situation. Depending on the outcome of those discussions and voting, three of the current Executive Committee members' terms will end either in 2009 or in 2011. The year 2009 is 4 years since they were elected. The year 2011 is the time set for the next ECCN in Rome.

The Chapter website moved to the Neuroscience Federative Institute in Lyon. The revised web pages included direct links to national societies, posting of meetings that may be of interest to clinical neurophysiologists, a job search site, minutes of meetings, contact information on societies and delegates, and Chapter Statutes.

3.4. Latin American Chapter

The Chapter was active especially for meetings during this term. The V Latin American Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology was held in Puebla, Mexico in October 2008. Jaime Ramos-Peek served as the Local Organizing Committee Chairman. Armando Tello served as the International Scientific Committee Chairman. All the IFCN Executive Committee members participated in the scientific sessions in this attractive city located at driving distance south of Mexico City and its archeological attractions for visitors. The meeting had been originally scheduled for Varadero Beach, Cuba in March 2008, but was rescheduled for organizational reasons. Delegates from most South American national member societies attended despite the distance. This meeting marked the first occasion for a Chapter meeting in the northern portion of the Latin American region.

The Latin American Neurophysiological Monitoring Symposium was held in Montevideo, Uruguay in April 2007. Daniel Cibils served as the convener. The meeting covered topics about the science and clinical techniques for intraoperative monitoring and testing. This achieved a standing room only attendance from South American clinical neurophysiologists interested in surgical monitoring techniques and science. The attendees recommended that further such meetings be held every few years.

The Second Latin American Symposium of Neurophysiological Monitoring was held 2 years later in Porto Alegre, Brazil. It was held together with three other neurological and neurosurgical symposia in May 2009. The joint meeting was entitled the 5^o Congresso Gaúcho de Neurologia e Neurocirurgia, Sul Neuro 2009. Ricardo Ferreira organized the Latin American Symposium of Neurophysiological Monitoring portion of this meeting. Latin American Chapter President José Xavier de Castro and Executive Committee member Daniel Cibils represented the Chapter in this organization. The Neurological and Neurosurgical Society of Rio Grande do Sul and the Brazilian

Academy of Neurology also held sessions. The overall registration exceeded 500: & white; (see Appendix 11, Fig. 34).

In the 2009 Chapter elections, Renato Verdugo (Chile) succeeded Jose H. Xavier de Castro (Brazil) as Chapter President. Jorge Gutierrez (Colombia) was elected as the Chapter Treasurer. Member-at-Large election results still were uncertain when this book went to press. Those two new officers will join the continuing Chapter Executive Committee members Secretary Alberto Yorio (Argentina) and Member-at-Large Jaime Ramos Peek (Mexico). The Liaison officer between the Chapter and the Federation Executive Committee continued to be Professor Daniel Cibils (Uruguay).

3.5. Asian–Oceanian Chapter

This Chapter's activity concentrated on congresses and other local meetings. The major meeting was the IV AOCCN held in April 2009 in Seoul, Korea. The meeting, whose theme was "AOCCN in Cultural Variety: Momentum of Revival", was hosted by the Korean Society for Neurophysiology. Kwang-Woo Lee served as the Convener, along with Juhan Kim as Secretary General and Jae-Moon Kim as the Scientific Chairman. Over 700 clinical neurophysiologists participated from 37 countries around the world. Over 3 days the congress held four plenary lectures, eight workshops, eight meet the expert sessions, 11 clinical and scientific symposia, three luncheon symposia, and 236 individual presentations.

The Chapter in 2009 elections chose outgoing Chapter Secretary Kwang-Woo (Korea) to serve to succeed Rawiphan Witoonpanich (Thailand) as the Chapter President for the 2009–2013 term. Bob Santoso Wibowo (Indonesia) was elected as the next AO Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Hiroshi Shibasaki (Japan) will continue to serve as the Liaison Officer. The Chapter Assembly chose Bali, Indonesia as the site of the AOCCN during the next Fiscal Period.

During this term, Dr. M. Veerendrakumar organized a regional meeting held in Bangalore,

India in April 2007. The Chapter agreed to provide some Federation funding and sponsorship for the meeting.

3.6. North American Chapter

The three Federation member societies in North America were American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM), American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) and Canadian Society of Clinical Neurophysiologists. This region had not had a formal Federation Chapter. The Executive Committee had agreed to make funding available for the region. In the previous term that funding was support for international fellows to attend meetings. The Executive Committee proposed that the three societies form a North American Chapter. The three societies agreed in principle. AANEM Chapter Bye-Laws that were subsequently approved by the three societies, the IFCN Rules and Executive Committees and the General Assembly. Delegates from the here mentioned societies formed a Chapter Executive Committee. Andrew Eisen (Canada) served as the Liaison Officer. The Chapter Executive Committee was charged with defining the Chapter's activities and processes of achieving the Federation's goals.

4. Rules Committee

Amendments approved by the Edinburgh General Assembly were filed with the Canadian Minister of Industry. Further amendments of IFCN Statutes and Bye-Laws were under discussion during this term. François Mauguière (France) served as the Rules Committee Chairman. Marc Nuwer (USA), James Colebatch (Australia), Ricardo Reisin (Argentina) and Rawiphan Witoonpanich (Thailand) served on the committee.

In accordance with the incorporation of IFCN under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act, the Statutes were largely re-structured. These new Statutes were approved by the General Assembly during the previous Fiscal Period. At

the Edinburgh General Assembly, the Editor-in-Chief and host society's Scientific Program Committee Chairman were added to the OCIC. ICNS membership criteria were expanded. New rules allow for mail or e-mail approval of the General Assembly minutes.

4.1. Geographic balance

In December 2007, the General Assembly approved the North American Chapter Bye-Laws. That change resulted in four IFCN Chapters: Latin America, Asia–Oceania, North America, and Europe, including Middle East and Africa. In contrast, the IFCN Statutes recognize two geographical areas: (1) North and South America, Australasia and Japan, and (2) Europe, Asia (except Japan) and Africa. This was felt to be inequitable. The situation prompted the Executive Committee to explore adopting a new system, expanding the number of geographical areas from 2 to 4. They would correspond to the Chapters. The new four geographic areas would be used for nomination of Federation officers. A Task Force was formed to explore this important issue of geographical balance in Executive Committee election. The Task Force comprised representatives from four Chapters, the Rules Committee, the Executive Committee, and the IFCN attorney Roderick Kirkham. Luis García-Larrea (France) represented the European Chapter, Donald Sanders (USA) represented the North American Chapter, Jose Xavier de Castro (Brazil) represented the Latin American Chapter, and Kwang-Woo Lee (Korea) represented the Asian–Oceanian Chapter.

In the system in 2009, Federation Executive Committee elections were carried out in three steps. A first round elects the President and Treasurer. A second round elects the Secretary. A third round elects two Members-at-Large. The President and Past-President should 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 the President, Past-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The system in 2009 also required the Nominations Committee to determine whether a candidate is from the EEG or the EMG discipline. The Executive Committee cannot have more than five members from one discipline. The delicate balancing of geography and discipline has been the problem requiring a three-stage election process. The Member-at-Large election stage was an opportunity to limit the candidates' disciplines so as to meet the disciplinary rule.

After careful discussion, the Task Force recommended increasing the geographical regions from 2 to 4. The regions would correspond to the four Chapters: Asia–Oceania, Europe, including Middle East and Africa, Latin America, and North America. The particular rule recommended stated: “No region should have more than two Executive Committee officers, excluding the Editor-in-Chief”, and “Each region should have at least one officer”.

In such a new system each Chapter would have an equal opportunity in the election process. The Task Force recognized that the Chapters do differ in number of member societies, total number of individual members, and votes in elections. The Member-at-Large election step would serve as an opportunity for one or two unrepresented regions to gain an Executive Committee seat.

The Task Force's plan would be in consideration by the 2010 General Assembly.

4.2. Votes per society

The General Assembly is composed of the Executive Committee, the Delegates, and additional representatives from each member society. Each member society has one Delegate, who is the principal person serving as a liaison between the Federation and his or her member society. The number of each member society's additional

General Assembly Representatives corresponded to the number of that society's dues-paying members. Societies with 1–99 members had one additional representative. A society with 100–399 was entitled to two additional representatives. A society with 400 or more was entitled to three additional representatives.

The Executive Committee recommended a change in the number of each society's General Assembly votes and voting Delegates and Representatives. In 2009 each society's total number of votes was 2, 3 or 4 depending on the number of members in the society. The plan was to change this to 1, 2 or 3. The Task Force agreed with that recommendation, and that it should apply both to elections and General Assembly meetings. This issue was scheduled for presentation at the 2010 Kobe General Assembly.

4.3. Eligibility to vote and nominate

Member societies are eligible to vote in Federation elections and at the General Assembly unless they have failed to pay their dues. That policy has been followed for decades in the Federation. In recent times about a half dozen societies were ineligible to vote because of failures to pay their society dues. Two rules questions remained under discussion. The first question was whether a member of an ineligible society was allowed to run in an election. The second was whether an ineligible society was allowed to nominate a candidate.

The Statute in 2009 stated: “Even if a society is not eligible to vote, its individual members may still nominate persons for any position, and its members remain eligible for nomination”. The Rules Committee recommended changing that rule to: “Even if a society is not eligible to vote, its members remain eligible for nomination; such nominees should take membership in the ICNS before becoming eligible”.

The ICNS rules also would need a change to allow for that. The ICNS membership rule in 2009 was: “The society shall consist of honorary fellows, fellows, members and junior members

from non-affiliated countries. Additional members may be from countries with an affiliated society if the individual cannot be a member of that affiliated society, and that society provides written support for the individual's request for ICNS membership". The Rules Committee recommended to change the first part of that rule to: "The society shall consist of fellows, members and junior members from non-affiliated countries or countries where their society is ineligible to vote at the General Assembly".

That would allow an individual to run for an Executive Committee office even if his or her national society did not pay its dues. It also clarified that an ineligible society could not make a nomination in Federation elections.

The broader issue also was discussed about societies that regularly do not pay their dues. The reasons vary. One or two societies may have disappeared entirely. Others have difficulty with the amount of the dues, which is US \$4 per member per year. Some cited currency restrictions. The Executive Committee recommended a rule: "A member society failing to pay its annual dues for four years shall be deemed delinquent and that society will be recommended to the General Assembly for removal as a member society of the IFCN, according to Statutes 2.3". The Rules Committee would need to discuss this suggestion.

4.4. Nomination Committee

Composition of Nomination Committee was discussed. In 2009 the Nominations Committee was composed of the Past-President as chairperson, and three Federation Delegates as committee members. The Executive Committee appointed the three Delegates.

The Executive Committee recommended that others be allowed to serve on the Nominations Committee, not just formal Delegates. Where the rule about the Nomination Committee composition mentions "three delegates", the language could be changed to "three persons from member societies".

5. Practice Committee

Several IFCN Practice Guidelines were developed during this term. Giorgio Cruccu (Italy) chaired a committee to develop "Guidelines on Somatosensory Evoked Potentials". His committee also included M.J. Aminoff, G. Curio, J.M. Guérit, R. Kakigi, F. Mauguière, P.M. Rossini, R.D. Treede, and L. García-Larrea. Connie Duncan (USA) chaired a committee to develop "Guidelines on Event-Related Potentials". The latter committee included C.C. Duncan, R.J. Barry, J.F. Connolly, C. Fischer, P.T. Michie, R. Näätänen, J. Polich, I. Reinvang, and C. van Petten. Their specific topic was "Event-related potentials in clinical research: guidelines for eliciting, recording, and quantifying mismatch negativity, P300, and N400". Both were presented and accepted by the Federation and appeared in the journal *Clinical Neurophysiology*.

Graham Holder (UK) chaired a committee to develop "Guidelines on Visual Evoked Potentials and Electroretinography". The Executive Committee accepted a proposal by Donald Schomer of the ACNS. He proposed that the IFCN and ACNS jointly prepare a guideline on "Monitoring EEG for Pre-surgical Epilepsy Evaluation". Hartwig Siebner (Germany) chaired another committee to develop "Guidelines on Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation", one that would emphasize ways to conduct those techniques.

Professor Simone Rossi served as chairperson for a conference on TMS safety and ethics, which was held in Sienna, Italy in March 2008 under the sponsorship of IFCN. S. Rossi, M. Hallett, P.M. Rossini and A. Pascual-Leone summarized the results of that conference as a guidelines document under the title "Safety, Ethical Considerations, and Application Guidelines for the Use of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in Clinical Practice and Research. A Consensus Statement from the International Workshop on Present and Future of TMS: Safety and Ethical Guidelines."

6. History project

The history of the Federation should be preserved and made available for review by IFCN society members and future Clinical Neurophysiologists. In the mid-nineties, then IFCN President Carl Lücking first took the initiative to establish IFCN archives. He wrote to the first President Herbert Jasper and had contact with and received documents from William Cobb and Robert Naquet, both former Federation Presidents in the seventies. In the eighties William Cobb had proposed archives located at the National Hospital in London, but no action followed. Therefore Carl Lücking suggested to establish IFCN archives once a permanent Secretariat would be installed. As Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee in the previous term, he recommended a process to identify and maintain archives and otherwise make the story of the Federation available. The Executive Committee considered ways to archive and create a historical document. Previously William Cobb (UK) wrote a book titled "Wave Length: a History of the IFSECN". The Federation distributed it to all participants to the London 1985 ICEEGCN. That book detailed Federation history from its beginning to 1982. It had been more than a quarter century since that work was completed. To follow the subsequent history of the Federation, the Executive Committee invited Marc Nuwer (USA) and Carl Lücking (Germany) to write a monograph for this purpose in 2008–2009. Those two authors invited pictures and information from the Chapter officers and Executive Committee members among others. They themselves had witnessed much of the interval since 1985, and brought a depth of experience to this project. Marc Nuwer served as a Practice Guidelines chairman starting in 1986, subsequently served three terms on the Rules Committee and 13 years on the Executive Committee, including one term each as Federation President (1997–2001) and Past-President (2001–2006). Carl Lücking served two terms on the Rules Committee, 8 years on the Executive Committee

as Federation President (1993–1997) and Past-President (1997–2001), followed by five more years as Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee until 2006. Together they have had considerable personal knowledge to carry on the Federation story after the years covered by William Cobb work. The plans are for a soft covered book as the second edition to the Cobb book, one that can be distributed to registrants at the ICCN 2010 in Kobe. A hard covered edition will be published as a *Clinical Neurophysiology Supplement Series* book.

7. Sponsorships and donations

For the previous several Fiscal Periods, the Federation has had a committee charged with identifying societies and individuals who merit a donation of sponsorship by the Federation. For several terms, this was the Gift Committee under the chairmanship of Fernando Lopes da Silva (The Netherlands) and others. In subsequent terms, this was folded into the responsibilities of the Long-Range Planning Committee under the leadership of Carl Lücking (Germany). Those committees assessed not only to whom donations might be given but also the broader issues of identifying needs and recommending relevant Federation policy and process changes. In this term, the Executive Committee felt that there is no need for a Long-Range Planning Committee at that moment, and that the committee could be appointed as necessary in the future. The donations and sponsorship activity were assumed by the Executive Committee members working together with the Executive Secretariat in Vancouver.

7.1. Sponsored subscriptions and books

Under a system launched during the Fiscal Period 1997–2001, the sponsored subscription program provided financially disadvantaged societies and medical centers with free *Clinical Neurophysiology* journal subscriptions. In 18 countries sponsored

subscriptions were given to 58 key persons who made the Journal accessible for a multitude of neurophysiologists. Additionally the program provided Federation books such as the *Practice Guidelines* book and *Clinical Neurophysiology Supplement Series* books.

The secretariat office in this term contacted all recent sponsored subscribers to check how the journal and books were used. The program's goal was to have these resources available to many physicians and scientists at each institution, not just for the private use of one individual. The contact person during this term was IFCN Secretary, Professor Reinhard Dengler.

The program was authorized through 2009 for subscribers who acknowledged that the program was meeting the defined use goal. After that, an expanded formal application and review process were implemented. In that process, sponsored assistance applications were submitted through IFCN member societies. Individuals from countries without a member society were encouraged to join the ICNS to become eligible for this program. In this way, the national societies were given a greater voice about which sites would receive the sponsored books and journal subscriptions, and the Federation routinely would receive information on the program's effectiveness at each site.

7.2. Equipment donations

A new assistance program, launched in 2007 sought to meet equipment needs in economically disadvantaged member nations. The program aimed at matching institutions and individuals with surplus equipment with others who need equipment, even older generation pieces. That equipment then could be shipped to the needed site. Various technical difficulties slowed the progress of this program. This project continued under the leadership of Member-at-Large Daniel Cibils (Uruguay). Information about the program was posted on the IFCN website or could be obtained by contacting the IFCN secretariat in Vancouver.

The IFCN would facilitate the exchange of information among parties, but not the actual transfer or cost of shipping neurophysiologic equipment. The IFCN would not be responsible for insurance, customs, maintenance, repair, supplies or any other expenses associated with the equipment exchange. Members of national societies and of the ICNS were invited to send messages about needs and available equipment to the IFCN secretariat. Appropriate messages would be posted on a web page dedicated to these equipment needs messages.

7.3. International scholarships for young investigators

A new program supported two scholarships annually to support young researchers of developing geographic areas. This was to support training or research in clinical neurophysiology in distinguished institutions abroad. Each scholarship was valued at approximately US \$25,000. Detailed information is available on the IFCN website (<http://www.ifcn.info>).

In 2009, the program's first year, 10 applications were received. A physician from Azerbaijan was chosen for EEG and epilepsy training in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, UK. A physician from Armenia was chosen for training in EMG and nerve conduction techniques at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

8. Inclusiveness

To foster clinical neurophysiology worldwide, the IFCN works both with its member societies and with other international organizations. The Federation has for decades had an excellent working relationship with the World Federation of Neurology (WFN). Jun Kimura (Japan), Federation President in the term 1990–1993, went on to serve subsequently for a 4-year term as WFN President. The two organizations have held their quadrennial congresses jointly on several occasions, most

recently in Vancouver in 1993. The IFCN has held a seat on the WFN Research Committee that meets annually. That committee has several goals, such as contributing ideas for topics and faculty to the WFN Congress organizers and facilitating interactions among the various international organizations. President Hiroshi Shibasaki and Member-at-Large Daniel Cibils represented the IFCN at meetings of the WFN Research Committee during this term.

The Federation has enjoyed good working relationships with many subspecialty- and technique-oriented societies over many decades. Joint meetings and collaborations have included not only the WFN but also the Movement Disorder Society, the International Pharmacology-EEG Working Group (IPEG), the International Evoked Potential Symposia series, the International Spinal Cord Monitoring Symposia work group, and the International Society for Transcranial Stimulation (ISTS). With the rapid growth in size and number of societies dealing with functional neuroimaging, the Executive Committee recognized the importance of having a close association with neuroimaging groups. The German Society of Clinical Neurophysiology successfully formed relationships with other societies involved in functional neuroimaging and took over the leadership of training in this domain. Consequently, the society changed her name into Deutsche Gesellschaft für Klinische Neurophysiologie und funktionelle Bildgebung (German Society for Clinical Neurophysiology and Functional Imaging). Secretary Reinhard Dengler reported to the Executive Committee on this process to facilitate further discussion of how the IFCN could follow a similar mutually beneficial or collaborative path.

It remained important for each member society to keep in close contact with the IFCN Executive Office and Executive Committee. Keeping current on contact information remained a problem for the IFCN. Too often Delegates changed without proper notification of addresses or e-mail addresses changed without notifying the Federation. Good contact information was needed not

just for voting and fellowship nominations, but also for information exchange. Thoughts or suggestions to promote clinical neurophysiology always have been welcomed. Regular informational e-mailed reports to the societies and their delegates were sent out to the known contact addresses, reports that reviewed the ongoing issues, meeting information, and activities for the Federation committees.

9. Finances

IFCN finances remained healthy despite of the world economic recession during this term. A decline in investment earnings and a loss on foreign exchange caused economic constraints. Overall assets declined to US \$2.2 million by the end of 2008. This was still higher than at the beginning of this Fiscal Period in 2006. Canadian law requires posting the annual audit statement on the IFCN website at the beginning of each new fiscal year. These were available back through fiscal year 2001. This positive fiscal picture has been due to careful planning and spending by the several Executive Committees and diligent work of Treasurers Manuel Meyer, Paul Despland, and Andrew Eisen over the past two dozen years. This is enormously better than the situation in the early 1980s when the Federation had serious financial difficulties.

The journal and book publications' royalties from Elsevier remained the largest source of Federation income, comprising more than half of the average annual revenue. Society dues, congress profits and investment income were the remainder of the income.

The main expenditures remained for congress meetings, both the ICCN and the Chapter Congresses. The funding given each Chapter was increased at the end of the last term from US \$60,000 to US \$100,000 per 4-year Fiscal Period. This funded not only the quadrennial Chapter Congresses but also other regional symposia and Chapter organizational expenses. In addition, the Federation undertook a policy to subsidize

publication of the Chapter Congress abstracts, which previously was an expense borne by each meeting budget.

Organizational support for the Editor's Office and for the Secretariat in Vancouver continued. Payments to an external financial advisor, the attorney's office and for insurance also continued. Executive Committee expenses were mainly for travel to their meetings. Those Executive Committee meetings were scheduled at the time of Federation sponsored Chapter Congresses or symposia so as to allow the officers to lecture at those meetings at no cost to the meetings' budgets.

A new initiative funded two scholarships annually, each of approximately US \$25,000 for young researchers. This was described above. The Treasurer budgeted for this annually, beginning in 2009. The Federation continued funding journal subscriptions and books for economically disadvantaged regions.

10. Nominations

The work of the Nomination Committee was initiated very early in this term because of the resignation of Secretary Johannes Noth (Germany) during the first year. He resigned in 2007 to accept the position of Dean of the Medical Faculty of Aachen Technical University. A by-election was held to fill the open position. Six nominations were submitted and four of those candidates agreed to stand for election. Reinhard Dengler (Germany) was elected to serve as Secretary for the remainder of the term.

The complex quadrennial election cycle began in early 2009 for nomination and election of the next Executive Committee officers for the Fiscal Period 2010–2014. As set forth in the rules, the

process sought to balance geography and discipline. The rules define EEG and EMG as the two recognized disciplines, even though clinical neurophysiology had grown into a much more complex field. The geographic regions remained (a) Europe, Africa, and Asia except Japan, and (b) the Americas, Japan, and Australia. There was discussion about changing the election process to one that recognized four geographic regions in place of the two regions — one for each Chapter's region. That was still a matter of discussion during this term. The 2009 elections cycle was conducted using the traditional two-region rule.

To accomplish the delicate balance of the geography and discipline, the election was carried out in three steps. In the first round, two candidates for the President and three candidates for the Treasurer were nominated. Paolo Rossini (Italy) was elected President and Reinhard Dengler (Germany) was elected as the new Treasurer. Paolo Rossini previously served as Editor-in-Chief and President of the European Chapter. Reinhard Dengler was currently serving as Federation Secretary when he was elected to serve as Treasurer. The second round of the election was set to choose a Secretary, followed by a third round to choose two Members-at-Large. In the second round, the societies chose Daniel Cibils (Uruguay) as Secretary. In the final round, the societies chose Lawrence Phillips (USA) and Mamede de Carvalho (Portugal) as the two Members-at-Large for the 2010–2014 term.

The Nomination Committee is charged with overseeing the elections process. The committee itself does not make nominations or chose candidates. Past-President François Mauguère (France) chaired the committee. Other members were Donald Sanders (USA), Dr. Jeanette Farina (Brazil) and Mustare Veerendrakumar (India).