

## IFCN EXCO MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2012: Orlando, Florida

Present: Paolo Rossini (PR), Daniel Cibils (DC), Hiroshi Shibasaki (HS), Mamede de Carvalho (MdC), Reinhard Dengler (RD), Larry Phillips (LP), David Burke (DB), Stephanie Stevenson (SS)

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**President's Report:** PR is focusing on collaboration with the North American Chapter (which is linked by history and tradition to the IFCN). It is important to raise the profile of the IFCN with AANEM members by also acknowledging the IFCN grants deriving to AANEM meetings via the North American IFCN-Chapter, and PR thanks LP for his efforts in this regard.

The contacts with the organizers of the next Asia-Oceania Chapter (AOC) meeting to be held in Bali at the end of August 2013 have been re-established thanks for the efforts of HS. PR has written a welcome message for their upcoming conference.

The International Society of Intraoperative Neurophysiology (ISIN) adopted CLINPH as its official journal. PR was invited to their Annual Meeting and spoke briefly on the history of the Journal.

The final adjustments have been made to the website and the Chapter websites (Latin America and Europe) are progressing.

Thank to all for collaboration and thanks to Stephanie and VW for the excellent secretariat activity.

**Report of the Treasurer:** The IFCN financial situation is sound. RD is in contact with Rod Kirkham (IFCN lawyer) over the changes in the new Canadian Societies Act and how they will affect the IFCN. It is important to keep the IFCN non profit status, so we will comply with this Act in a timely manner.

### **Final Documentation on the Modification of the Election Procedures to be Submitted to the Rules**

**Committee:** If approved these changes will take effect in 2018 (so present elections will fall under the "old" statutes).

**Institution of a Budget for Supporting Meetings in the interest of the IFCN (e.g. USD 50,000):** The use of these funds by the Chapters is variable, and not always to the original purpose (which was educational). Shall the ExCo go on with this kind of Chapter support? After a discussion of the guidelines for such support, it was agreed to prepare a letter to the Chapters.

**ICCN Report:** This meeting will be held in Berlin, March 20-24, 2014 at the Estrel Hotel. RD presented the preliminary program which integrates the national meeting of the German Society and the international meeting.

It is expected that the ICCN will be able to raise significant sponsorship funds, and RD has already begun this process.

**Report of the Editor in Chief:** The two \$10,000 awards were a good idea but did not achieve the goal and created a lot of additional work for the Editorial Office and the Associate Editors. DB will notify winners, and this will be publicized in the Journal. DB and LP are concerned about the misuse of the impact factor and have co-written an editorial for Clinical Neurophysiology and Muscle and Nerve. CLINPH acceptance rate is 36% for original articles, and for all submissions, just under 50%. The ExCo discussed the publication of printed abstracts for Societies that are affiliated with CLINPH (options are reinstating the “yellow pages”, offering publication to affiliated societies, and dedicating one paper per issue to a particular affiliated specialty). DB recommended changing the subject categorization of CLINPH; removing neurosciences and adding physiology, psychology and rehabilitation. Agreed.

**Proposal to Boost Specialty and Journal:** DB suggested the elimination of the two \$10K prizes for outstanding research submissions to CLINPH. In its place, DB suggests increasing awards for abstracts at the ICCN 2014, with winning presentations expected to form part of a review article for CLINPH. As the Cobb and Brazier prizes are lower, ExCo agreed to either increase the Cobb and Brazier or divide the pool of funds for these prizes equally. PR suggested the ExCo could name prizes in honour of clinical neurophysiologists who had passed away.

### **Chapter Liaison Reports**

*Latin American Chapter:* DC reported there are 12 national societies, with a reinvigorated Dominican Republic Society. The Brazilian Society is organizing a national congress and has invited the ExCo to participate. Future congress and symposia are scheduled for Buenos Aires in Argentina (2013) and Cartagena (2015) with the hope that the IFCN will participate. The Chapter website is live, and the Chapter will support Spanish and Portuguese versions of the site.

*Asia-Oceania Chapter:* HS report there are currently 11 national societies. Many of the societies are active and China is becoming more active. There is little scientific exchange across member societies, partly due to differences in language, geography and cultural background. HS presented the tentative program for the conference in Bali (Bali Conference Centre, Nusa Dua, August 28-31, 2013). ExCo members have been invited to speak.

*European Chapter:* MdC noted the European chapter meets regularly with strong participation by all. The Chapter has done a survey on training, professional activity, education and reimbursement in different countries, which will be posted on the Chapter website. The Chapter is producing an original document containing the guidelines for repetitive TMS application.

*North American Chapter:* LP reported that the bylaw updates are approved, and there is now a designated representative from each of the member Societies. These bylaws may require some revision in regard to representation to ExCo.

**ICNS:** MdC reports 30 active members from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eurasia, with 4 additional special members.

**Report from the Elections Committee:** HS reported that the first round of elections for President and Treasurer is proceeding, with 54% of member societies already voting. The deadline is October 15, 2012. The second round will be for Secretary, with nominations starting January 2013, and the third round for members-at-large, nominations starting June 2013. After discussion and consultation with Rod Kirkham, the IFCN lawyer, it was agreed that ExCo members can vote in the General Assembly meeting but not in the IFCN elections.

**Report from the Rules Committee:** HS reported that the Statutes/Bylaws of ICNS, (amended at the Beijing ExCo meeting), will be presented to the Berlin General Assembly meeting for approval. Amendment of the NA Chapter By-Laws was reviewed, and approved, and no approval from the GA is required. The Statutes of the Cyprus Society were approved by the ExCo and voting is proceeding, with a deadline of November 30. The ExCo discussed the approved changes to the IFCN Statutes and PR suggested asking Rod Kirkham to look over the changes in view of the new Canadian Societies Act. RD noted that the current statutes must be reviewed first as there is a time limit in terms of gaining approval for changes to the Statutes to comply with the Act.

**Report from the Education Committee:** PR presented a draft educational needs survey for national delegates. LP noted that it will be important to gain feedback from young clinical neurophysiologists, who participate more in elearning.

**Report from the Fundraising Committee:** PR presented a draft prospectus for potential sponsors of the IFCN. It was agreed that at this time, the IFCN would focus only on website advertising.

**Website Reports:** SS and DC noted the number of hits is increasing. Activities are focused on going live with Latin American and European Chapter websites. PR asked whether the top cited articles forever could be added to the website.

**IFCN Scholarships:** DC presented a final report of the 2011 scholarship winners and preliminary reports from the 2012 winners. The ExCo agreed that a status report from the supervisor of the scholarship winner should be requested before the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of scholarship funds.

**Editor-in-Chief Appointment:** The Editor-in-Chief can be appointed for two terms, each of four years. DB has now been serving for 4 years and 9 months (started January 2008). DB would like to continue and enjoys the position. PR moves, LP seconds, to continue appointment. Agreed. The ExCo congratulated DB for the job well done, and hope the best for the Journal.

Meeting adjourns 16.30.