



# ISPN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

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## **ISPN Executive Board Members 2015-2016**

### **Newsletter, February, 2016**

#### **Audit**

##### **F. Salomao, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

We expect to receive all relevant information concerning the Society Balance in order to produce a report in the due time.

#### **Bylaws**

##### **Chidambaram Balasumbranium**

An adjourned form of the ISPN by-laws according to the Izmir meeting amendments has been published on the ISPN website and is available at:

<http://www.ispneurosurgery.org/about-us/ispn-constitution-and-by-laws/>

#### **Education**

##### **Wan Tew Seow, Singapore**

##### **Federico Di Rocco, Lyon, France**

Concluded ISPN course after the ISPN meeting in Izmir

-Kochi, India November 19th-21st

Local organizer: C. Deopujari ([d.chandrashekhar11@gmail.com](mailto:d.chandrashekhar11@gmail.com))

Main topics: Brain Tumors and Hydrocephalus

## **ISPN Faculty:**

- 1. Mattieu Vinchon (France)**
- 2. Sergio Cavalheiro (Brazil)**
- 3. Gurish Solanki (UK)**
- 4. Gianpiero Tamburrini (Italy)**
- 5. WT Seow (Singapore)**
- 6. S Constantini (Israel)**
- 7. Chandrashekhar Deopujari (India)**

-Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, November 23rd-24th

Local organizer: Al Shail Essam Abdulhaziz ([shail@kfshrc.edu.sa](mailto:shail@kfshrc.edu.sa))

Main topics: Brain and sellar-suprasellar tumors, Hydrocephalus, Vascular Pathologies and Spine

## **Faculty:**

- 1. D Pang (USA)**
- 2. WT Seow (Singapore)**
- 3. G Tamburrini (Italy)**
- 4. K. Shimoji (Japan)**

## *Confirmed Courses for 2016*

- **April 7-12** – African Paediatric Neurosurgery Course 3<sup>rd</sup> Module, Durban, South Africa (Graham Fieggen) in association with ISPN  
Local organizer : G. Fieggen ([gfiегgen@gmail.com](mailto:gfiегgen@gmail.com))  
The program has been developed by Dr Fieggen's team and ESPN and ISPN Education Committees. This is the third year of a three years cycle
- **June 25.26** – China ISPN Course, Guangzhou, China
- **July 7-9** - Mexico
- **August 2-4** - Santiago del Chile, Chile (locally organized by Dr. Sergio Valenzuela)
- **October** (dates to be confirmed) - Thailand
- **November 5-6** Myanmar

## **Liaison**

### **Guirish Solanki, Birmingham, UK**

The Liaison Committee's charge:

Our ISPN vision statement includes the development and cementing of relationships with other international organizations committed to the improvement in the health and welfare of the sick and underprivileged child.

One of the Liaison Committee's duties is to study areas of common interest, initiate contact with other societies and make recommendations for activities to be considered by the Executive Board.

### **Committee Update Summary:**

The committee's continental representatives had opportunity to meet during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of the society, held in beautiful Izmir, Turkey. The meeting wonderfully hosted by Saffet and Inci Mutluer with Kenes, was a great success and we thank them for their generous hospitality.

We warmly welcome the appointment of Professor Graciela Zuccaro, from Buenos Aires, Argentina as our first woman president. One of the major aims of her presidency will be to increase the ISPN membership. While our president's vision is to open the doors to full time paediatric and adult neurosurgeons looking after children, from all over the world, she is particularly keen on increasing awareness of our society and develop an active and productive membership in the developing countries. The executive committee has already agreed a special reduced fee for LMIC (Low and middle income countries).

Therefore, in-line with the strategic direction from our president, the liaison committee is committed to supporting this objective and its continental representatives will be working to disseminate information and invite membership in close collaboration with the membership and communication committees.

Our President Elect, Mr William Harkness, has also suggested the possibility of developing a role for Continental (good will) Ambassadors within the Committee and this exciting concept will be further developed in discussions with the executive board.

The society's executive board confirmed the existing composition of Liaison Committee and the direction of its work particularly with the neuro-oncology societies and educational activities during congress meetings to foster a closer working relationship between clinicians and researchers in neurosurgery, neuro-oncology and radiation therapy.

Over the past 3-4 months the committee has had an opportunity to continue to improve links with other neurosurgical societies and to collaborate with other societies whose aims are congruent with the stated aims of our society. It was reassuring to know that there is significant interest by some of these societies in developing links and to actively collaborate in scientific meetings.

### **New Projects for 2015-2016:**

1. ISPN Membership Drive,
  - a. Continental propagation of information about membership
  - b. Reduced fee for attendance to annual meetings, support for ISPN Courses
  - c. Support to identify ISPN invited speakers for national & regional meetings

- d. Liaise with paediatric units to collaborate in research, clinical trials, education
2. Global survey of paediatric unit facilities, with assessment of resources, manpower and extent of clinical practice
    - a. In collaboration with the Communication Department of the ISPN
    - b. With the support of the paediatric committee of the WFNS, and continental societies
    - c. Evaluate extent of facilities, manpower, specialities provided, availability of instruments, and allied specialities (oncology, radiation therapy, neurology, neurophysiology, maxilla-facial, plastics, spinal, vascular, pathology, etc)
    - d. Draw a world map with distribution of facilities and resources to make collaborative planning feasible between and within regions.
3. Guideline Task Group:
    - a. The Initial meeting of a task group to look at existing Guidelines and critically appraise them was held at Izmir and was followed by a presentation by Tony Figaji detailing intent in streamlining guidelines and making them relevant to geographical regions with limited facilities and resources as well.
    - b. The committee hopes to look and evaluate the possibility of members setting up a group tasked with evaluating national and international guidelines and how best to homogenise these. Further details will become available later.

**Projects currently underway include the following:**

1. List of Liaison contacts to national, regional and continental neurosurgical societies in every continent.
2. Collaboration with SIOP (International Society of Paediatric Oncology)
3. Collaboration with SIOP-E Brain Tumour Group (BTG)

**List of Liaison contacts:**

The development of such a list is important to cascade important information between societies and maintain links in respective websites. Access to such a list may help foster closer ties between colleagues in far off places and provide our society with relevant regional information, access to distribution of surveys, research links and local education & training contacts.

### **Collaboration with SIOP:**

Most of the EB is already familiar with this proposal. This was in the background of an already successful continental collaboration between the SIOP-European chapter (Brain Tumour Group) and the ESPN (European Society of Paediatric Neurosurgery) starting in 2010. The partnership developed education and training courses in neuro-oncology for oncologists and neurosurgeons alike as well as a joint neuro-oncology scientific session at the ESPN Congress. As Neurosurgery Co-chair of the SIOP-Europe Brain Tumour Group, I proposed a close collaboration between SIOP world and the ISPN which was approved both by SIOP and by the ISPN executive at the Sydney meeting in 2012.

Over the past 4 years the Liaison Committee supported by the executive board and other committees (Scientific & Education) has fostered improving ties between Neurosurgery and Neuro-oncology.

Since 2012, the annual meetings have held a dedicated neuro-oncology session with the active participation of neuro-oncologists. This has met with a generally positive response from the membership with good attendance and feedback. In addition both SIOP and ISPN have held joint pre-congress educational activities in 2013 (SIOP, Hong Kong) and 2014 (ISPN, Rio de Janeiro).

### **43RD ISPN MEETING NEURO-ONCOLOGY DAY & “WRAP-UP SESSION”**

In October 2015, during the 43rd ISPN Annual Meeting, along with Graham Fieggen as chair of the scientific Committee we helped organise a whole day of neuro-oncology at the plenary meeting of the ISPN and hold a combined SIOP-ISPN “Wrap-Up Session” during the scientific session.

The “wrap-up” session was the brain-child of our scientific chair Graham Fieggen, to provide an opportunity to deliver the latest cutting-edge update in neurosurgery and neuro-oncology by world leaders in the respective fields. 5 speakers shared the podium, including Prof. Stefan Rutkowski, president of the SIOP-Europe Brain Tumour Group who updated us on High-Risk Medulloblastoma, and Frank Saran, Director & Head Neuro-Oncology Unit, The Marsden Hospital, London UK, who updated on radiation therapy including the new treatment modalities such as Proton Beam therapy. On all accounts the session was very well attended (even though it was the last session of the day) and much appreciated with a positive feedback. We hope to replicate this in Kobe in 2016.

### **3rd International Neuro-oncological Surgery Workshop & Education Day**

In 2015, immediately following our ISPN Meeting, the 47th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP 2015) took place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 8-11 October 2015 at Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC).

The Liaison committee with its continental representative as local host (Tony Figaji) and with collaboration of the Education Committee of the ISPN (Wan Tew Seow), WFNS Paediatric Committee (Graham Fieggen), SIOP-E BTG (Stefan Rutkowski), SIOP(Prof. Roger Packer), South African Oncology Society(Alan Davidson), held the 3rd International Paediatric Neuro-Oncological Surgery Workshop and Education Day 10-11th October 2015.

On the 10th October, Prof Roger Packer from SIOP, held a joint Neuro-Oncology session with invited ISPN Neurosurgery speakers (Tony Figaji and Michael Taylor) at the SIOP plenary meeting.

On the 11th October, we held the first Pan-African Neuro-Oncology Workshop and Education Day as a joint activity between ISPN, SIOP-E BTG, WFNS, SIOP and African Faculty.

Three cadaveric workshops were held on Endoscopic resection of brain tumours, Midline and interhemispheric approaches to Brain Tumours and surgical approaches to brain tumours. The workshops were held at 6th floor, Seminar Room, Surgical Skills Lab, ICH, Red Cross Children's Hospital, Cape Town with a beautiful view of Table Mountain. A 15 strong faculty composed of neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists and radiation therapists contributed. The meeting was possible with financial support from the ISPN, SIOP, Local Hosts and Codman. We are very grateful for their support. Details of the meeting programme and participants are included.

### **Collaboration & Liaison Activities for 2016:**

Several members of national societies have expressed a desire to hold combined meetings or have joint educational or scientific activities. We are working closely with these societies to identify opportunities to work with the ISPN. As we formalise and firm up plans, we will apprise the society of these opportunities for collaboration.

Neuro-Oncology Session and pre-congress Course at ISPN – Kobe:

Provisional information about oncology participation shared with local host Prof. Mami Yamasaki

### **Collaboration with SIOP:**

The next forthcoming meeting is from the 48th Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) will take place October 19-22, 2016 in Dublin, Ireland. We are working with the organisers and the scientific committee to deliver neurosurgical presence at this meeting. This meeting immediately precedes the ISPN Oct. 23(Sun) - 27(Thu), 2016 in Kobe!

### **Collaboration with ISPNO:**

This year the ISPNO Meeting will be held in Liverpool, 12-15th June 2016 and will contain a strong neurosurgery programme with Conor Malluci and Barry Pizer as local hosts. Deadline for submission of abstracts is the 19th February 2016.

On the 12th June, Benedeta Pettorini is organising a Neurophysiology Neuro-monitoring Workshop. There is also an ISPNO Education Day which is fully organised by the local hosts and ISPN is not involved.

Invitation to participate:

The Liaison Committee would welcome more volunteers, to assist with its several activities and objectives. Please let us know if you are interested.

### **Membership**

#### **Reizo Shirane, Sendai, Japan**

An extensive work is ongoing in order to extend as much as possible the knowledge of the Society among ISPN members. Following the request of Graciela Zuccaro a list of Pediatric Neurosurgery Departments in different continents is going to be completed, thanks to the help in particular of Dr. Zulma Trovar Espinoza for the North American Continent, Martina Messing Junger for Europe, Guirish Solanki as Liaison Committee Chair. An invitation letter to join the ISPN has been prepared by Graciela Zuccaro as ISPN President and posted on the ISPN website. The letter has been translated in different languages thanks to the help of:

- Artur Da Cunha, that produced the final Portuguese version
- Adrian Caceres that produced the Spanish version
- Robert Chen that produced two Chinese versions
- Sandip Chaterjee for Asia, currently working on the Indian language version

### **Communication**

#### **Wolfgang Wagner, Mainz, Germany**

#### **Adrian Caceres, Costa Rica**

At the ISPN meeting in Izmir, the Executive Board has again intensively discussed the crucial role of the ISPN website and the urgent need to keep this website up-to-date and in a modern form. The Communication Committee was instructed to cooperate with Kenes in order to accomplish the goal of a modern and up-to-date website.

Many website updates and amendments have been performed so far; the cooperation with Kenes (Tchiaska Jeanneret and Louise Gorringer) is excellent and the constant touch with our president Graciela Zuccaro and our secretary Gianpiero Tamburrini is

most helpful. Additional amendments are in course of being completed with the help of Richard Moon from Moonbrand Company.

The ISPN website is a platform allowing communication between ISPN members and between the ISPN and the (pediatric) neurosurgical community at large. Such a website is a powerful „backbone" for communication (and needs, like many backbones, from time to time some physiotherapy). The „lifeblood", however, are the contributions from the EB, the chairs of the standing committees, and from the ISPN members. The past and the recent experience (not only in the ISPN) have shown that it is often difficult to get the necessary input timely to keep a website really alive. E. g., the last inputs to the „Case of the month", the „Complication of the month" or the „ISPN Members Journal Club" date back to 2011, 2013 or 2014; and also over the previous years, there were no constant contributions allowing regularly posting a new case etc. - regardless of the indefatigable efforts of the respective communication chairs.

Another very important point must be kept in mind. The projects for the website that are considered must be reasonable, realistic and reachable. Over the last two years, there have been put into words many important ideas by Douglas Cochrane, Richard Moon, Kenes and Adrián Cáceres. To name but a few:

1. Effective communication tools like email blasts including links, images and the easy access to services (e. g., registration and accommodation, ISPN merchandise, or donations)
2. Surveying tool for the use of the EB and approved patient management and care surveys
3. Web tools for remote meetings (Web ex or Go to meeting)
4. Records of the meetings' and courses' presentations to be used for building a library for the Society including teaching videos, eventually linked to the Guide
5. List serve tools for cases – input for such cases could be summarised and put in the case of the month section
6. Google button for translation etc. etc.

Such projects are important and of great benefit, but they can be realized only step by step.

When thinking about newsletters, actual cases for discussion, spreading new information etc. we must stay aware that the ISPN website is only one website (among probably many others) that is visited by the readers. It is crucial to keep in mind that it's not the quantity and frequency of information that makes a website interesting, but the quality and relevance of the really important and short messages.

Finally, we encourage all English native speakers to critically check the text of the different website pages and inform us directly if there are any mistakes that must be corrected.



## **Scientific**

### **Graham Fieggen, Cape-Town, South Africa**

Abstract submission has opened for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Kobe, Japan from 22-26 October 2016- the lifeblood of our meeting is original work by members and everyone is encouraged to please submit their best work so the scientific committee is able to offer a high quality, stimulating and relevant program. Please note the submission deadline of 04 April 2016.

There will also be a number of special symposia by outstanding invited speakers on topics including neuro-oncology, fetal surgery, dysraphism, neuroimaging, education and training, with background themes of molecular biology and ethics running through the meeting. More details will follow soon...

The meeting will be preceded by a one day course on “Omics for Pediatric Neurosurgeons”, providing information about stays for genomics, proteomics and metabolomics, of interest to neurosurgeons young and old!

As a reference for the past year work the results of the survey on the last ISPN meeting scientific programme and organization is sent in a separate file.

## **Ways & Means**

### **Conor Mallucci, Liverpool, UK**

The executive board has signed off a number of different fellowships which include:

#### **Awards and Support for attending related to ISPN annual meeting:**

ISPN LMIC Scholarships - \$2000 and ISPN Scientific Excellence

Scholarships/awards - \$2000

These will be combined and judged by the Ways and means Chair and committee and the scientific excellence scholarships will be judged by the scientific committee after abstracts for the annual meeting have been submitted, accepted for oral presentation and judged by the scientific committee

Up to 10 awards will be awarded prior to each ISPN

7 awards were given for the 2015 ISPN

#### **Visiting Fellowships in other Units**

Visiting fellowships for training in an ISPN recognized unit (\$5000)

And visiting fellowships for training in a developing Country's Unit (-\$ 2000)

This new concept has been launched at the last 2015 ISPN both at the executive board and the business meeting

We are compiling a list of interested units from both categories who are prepared to host potential visiting fellows

To date I have received a number of communications and expressions of interest for Units in hosting fellows but no applications have been received yet for these fellowships. A pro active announcement via the ISPN website and readership will need to be developed to promote applications for these fellowships