

ISPN Business Meeting - Minutes

Sunday 8 November 2020 13:00-14:30CET (GMT+1)

ISPN 2020 virtual meeting

1. President & Secretary welcome

ISPN President José Francisco Salomão (JFS) and Secretary Anthony Figaji (AF) welcomed the members to this year's annual Business Meeting (BM) in virtual format.

2. Executive Board report on recent activities

AF started the Executive Board (EB) report with a display of current EB members, who have been in their position since the Birmingham meeting.

The major change since the previous meeting was the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, which rendered a physical meeting and our educational courses impossible. Various alternatives were considered, and it was uniformly decided not to have a physical meeting and to rather postpone the ISPN 2020 Annual Meeting in Singapore to 2021.

As an implication of this decision, it meant that all future Annual Meetings would be postponed by a year. This was confirmed with the Chairs of each of those meetings.

The EB chose to organize a Virtual Meeting, and make it available free of charge, as the format of the meeting is different than the normal set-up, this meeting does not represent an Annual Meeting; therefore the Toronto meeting remains the 50th Annual Meeting.

With the absence of a physical scientific and Business Meeting, and most usual ISPN activities throughout 2020, the EB decided by vote to also freeze the current EB for a year to minimize further disruptions and maintain continuity.

3. Treasurer's report

Adrian Caceres (AC), ISPN Treasurer, presented ISPN's financial status by showing current assets totalling USD 96,4472, and 2020 income (USD 193,764) and expenses (USD 139,474).

AC commented that the ISPN economic situation remains stable, despite the global impact of COVID-19. The ISPN 2019 Birmingham meeting generated a surplus of GBP 16,169 which is in the process to be transferred to ISPN. A decrease in expenses is anticipated due to fewer face-to-face activities, and the ongoing pandemic, with increased workload and restrictions in travel and leave permits, will most likely impact the participation in the 2021 meeting.

The membership approved the balance, income & expenses of 2020.

4. Update on Annual Meetings

Wan Tew Seow (WTS), ISPN 2020 Annual Meeting Chair, presented the update on the rescheduled meeting. The 48th Annual Meeting will now be held from 14-18 November 2021, the venue remains the Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. The meeting will be held in conjunction with IFNE, with partially joint sessions. This minimized financial exposure.

AF continued by presenting the new dates for all future meetings, that were also moved with a year. In addition, as the site selection process usually takes place 5 years in advance of the meeting, it was agreed to move the site selection for what would now be ISPN 2026 to take place during ISPN 2021 Singapore.



5. Proliferation of online pediatric neurosurgery activities and rules for engagement of members & the Executive Board

AF summarized the situation that arose since the start of the pandemic, with an abundance of online pediatric neurosurgery activities, ISPN needs to be considerate of the use of the ISPN name for these events as well as the connection of ISPN EB members to such events. Such roles were in the process of being developed.

6. Committees

a. Education

Sandip Chatterjee (SC), ISPN Education Committee Chair, presented the overview of educational activities. Due to COVID-19 it was not possible to hold education courses. In lieu of these the ISPN Clash of the Titans webinar series was started on 5 June, with a webinar taking place every first and third Friday of the month. These webinars are debates on a controversial topic in pediatric neurosurgery and have been very successful. No budget was used to conduct these webinars.

The Education Committee is planning a virtual education course for South Asia, as well as publishing an ISPN e-book with power point slides to supplement the ISPN Guide.

b. Scientific

Francesco Sala (FS), ISPN Scientific Committee Chair, provided details on the scientific committee for the now postponed ISPN 2020 meeting, and confirmed that a new call for abstracts will be opened for ISPN 2021, as the number of abstracts submitted was understandably very low in comparison to earlier years. The highlight sessions will be moved to ISPN 2021 also. It had been decided that the abstract received would not be submitted for publication in the annual issue of Child's Nervous System, but rather rolled over to 2021. FS had polled abstract authors on their preferences.

FS thanked the ISPN 2020 virtual meeting advisory board and the ISPN Office for their support in putting together the meeting in a very short amount of time and presented a summary on the content of the virtual meeting.

c. Membership

Shlomi Constantini (SCo), Membership Chair, presented the results of the active membership campaign that has been ongoing. Despite COVID-19, membership has grown with +15% to 510 members. He explained the steps taken to create regional membership taskforces and thanked the taskforce leaders for their work & support.

SC emphasized that ISPN should serve as an international roof organization, with regional groups making it easier to maintain contact with the members. The set-up of these task forces are first step in such a process.

The 99 new ISPN members since the last BM were presented and approved by the active members.

7. Child's Nervous System update

Concezio di Rocco (CdR) presented an update on the ISPN journal, Child's Nervous System (CNS). The number of submissions continues to grow, and review time has been reduced. The Annual Issue on phacomatoses contained around 3,000 pages. The impact factor remains stable. CdR expressed the concern that self-citing may have on the journal's impact factor.

8. Close

JFS thanked the members for their presence at the first ISPN virtual Business Meeting and with hope for a face-to-face get together in 2021 closed the meeting at 14:35.

