

Society Newsletter 2002

Prepared by Dr Tadanori Tomita, Communications Chairman September 2002

Dear Dr Harkness,

Professor Jens Haase hosted the 29th Congress of the ISPN in Aalborg, Denmark from 2 to 6 July 2000. The Congress was a smashing success largely owing to the wonderful organizational work by our Danish colleagues. There were interesting presentations and intriguing discussions in every aspect of pediatric neurosurgical science. We learned together, and also taught each other new scientific knowledge and technologies. The social events gave us an opportunity to renew many old friendships and to get acquainted with new friends from around the world. Jens and Anne arranged the wonderful social activities. Many attendees enjoyed the "white night", which allowed for late night outdoor activities. Also, old Northern European history was felt strongly throughout the city. The weather greeted us comfortably. The society extends their sincere appreciation to Professor Haase and his staff for their remarkable work organizing such a wonderful and stimulating meeting.

We are going to have a very exciting 30th annual meeting of ISPN in Kyoto, Japan from 27 to 31 October 2002. Professors Shizuo Oi and Kiyoshi Sato are very happy to host the scientific meeting and social activities in this beautiful old capital city. Keep a close eye on the ISPN web site (www.ispn.org) for further information. We all look forward to seeing one another again in Kyoto.

We would like to express special appreciation to Professor Alain Pierre-Kahn, the former President of the ISPN. His dedication to the society, organizing skills and efforts to keep us in the highest standard in our beloved science and ethics are well recognized and remembered.

We are updating member's address, particularly e-mail addresses. Future communications from ISPN with its members will be done through e-mail, which will be much faster and also cost effective. Please send your e-mail address to Tadanori Tomita, M.D. at the address as follows (preferably via e-mail): Tadanori Tomita, MD, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Children's Memorial Hospital, 2300 children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois 60614 Tel: 773-880-4373 FAX: 773-880-4311 E-mail: ttomita@childrensmemorial.org

Message from the ISPN President

Dear colleagues and friends,

A young colleague recently asked me somewhat skeptically what I really thought was the value of our International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery. Did we really do or achieve anything meaningful? I read between the lines of his question, the implication that he thought we were perhaps just a loose affiliation of neurosurgeons that like getting together in interesting destinations around the world. This clearly made me think!! Maybe there was some truth in this view? However, as I pondered this issue further it became very clear to me that our Society had over the years done much more for me, for my patients, and I am sure for all of you, than simply providing us with some interesting travel destinations!

Throughout my membership our Society has provided me and my department with an international network of colleagues and friends whom I know and trust, and as a result we can share our common problems and unite across all political borders for the purpose of trying to improve the care of children with neurosurgical disorders. Disease and suffering are the fate of all of it and us is precisely this universal vulnerability and our resolve to help alleviate it that makes our International Society so rewarding. We are a relatively small society, and as a result I believe we maintain a level of honesty at our meetings and interactions that is not readily achieved elsewhere. Our Scientific and Education Committees have continued over the years to keep us abreast of the latest advances in our specialty and also provide support and education to many developing pediatric neurosurgery centers around the world. Yes, we do have our meetings in interesting and beautiful places, but our common purpose is the improvement of the pediatric neurosurgical care of children throughout the world and this always remains paramount in all of our Society's activities.

Through our journal Child's Nervous System we have provided an effective communication media to publish our research and all issues of relevance to Pediatric Neurosurgery. I believe it is our responsibility to ensure that our very best research papers appear in our journal, as it is the window through which our colleagues learn from and judge our specialty. Similarly, I believe we have as Society members an obligation to subscribe to our journal because without our support our journal cannot continue to maintain its high standards in the competitive world of scientific publishing. It is after all the mouthpiece of our members.

The next Meeting of the Society will be the 30th Anniversary of the ISPN, and will be organized by Shizuo Oi in the beautiful city of Kyoto in Japan. This promises to be a stunning Meeting and I look forward to seeing you all there.

It has been my privilege and honour to be your president this year. Thank you!

My greetings to you all from Cape Town.

Johnathan C. Peter

Cape Town, South Africa

Message from the ISPN Past President

Dear colleagues,

Last year in Aalborg, I passed the poncho onto my friend Jonathan Peter. My feelings, at that precise moment, were ambiguous: glad for him, happy and proud for having been your President, but a bit nostalgic, thinking that no sooner elected than was I dispossessed of my crown! This year of presidency went by too quickly. Thanks to the kind assistance of all the Executive Board members and to the support of Ezio Di Rocco, Chief Editor of Child's Nervous System, my task has been rendered minimal and enjoyable. I take the opportunity of this letter to thank all of them.

At the Executive Board meeting in Istanbul in 2000 the decision was taken to edit special topic reviews in Child's Nervous System. I must express my gratitude to Springer, editor of the Journal and to Concezio Di Rocco who both immediately accepted to give us, every year, a whole special issue of the Journal to edit these monographs. Such monographs, written by experts giving the state of the art at a given moment, will certainly be outstanding, improving the impact of our Journal and surely being of great help in our daily practice. A first monograph, edited by Shizuo Oi, Charles Raybaud, neurologist in Marseilles and myself will concern the fetal nervous system pathology. It will be published in 2003 and presented at our next annual meeting. A few other topics have already been chosen. We are now looking for new candidatures. Candidates must propose a subject for approval to the Chairman of the "Communication Committee" and must furnish the name of the eventual co-authors, the objective of the monograph, and a detailed content of the issue. Final selection and calendar for editing will be made by the Executive Board.

In 2003 I will have the privilege and honor to host the annual meeting of the ISPN from the 14th to the 18th of September. The weather at this period of the year should be sunny and warm. Monaco is not only a famous place of beauty and luxury between mountain and sea but also the ideal setting for an international congress. The Monte Carlo Grand Hotel where we will be meeting has its own Conference Centre offering up to date facilities.

I hope that you will be numerous to come to enjoy not only the scientific sessions but also the social program which will allow you to discover the French Riviera where there is so much to do and see.

I am looking forwards to seeing you in Kyoto next month.

With my best wishes

Alain Pierre-Kahn

Paris, France

Message from the Secretary

Annual Meetings

After a very successful meeting in Aalborg last July we will be meeting again in Kyoto next October. The forthcoming Annual Meeting in Kyoto, Japan, marks the 30th Anniversary of our Society. Mark your calendars with this year's Meeting dates (October 27-31, 2002) in order to attend and help celebrate this special event in the ISPN history.

Future meetings will be held in the following cities; Monaco in 2003 (A. Pierre Khan), Buenos Aires in 2004 (H. Pomata) and Vancouver in 2005 (P. Steinbok). This year the Executive Board will be considering future venues for the Annual Meeting. Those interested in hosting the ISPN Meeting in their Country are invited to write to me with a formal proposal for this special event.

Membership Certificates

The new ISPN Membership Certificates are available for distribution, free of charge. Certificates are automatically issued to new members a few months after the Annual Meeting and are also available upon request to all members that wish to have a new certificate. These certificates can be obtained by writing to me at the Secretariat Office in Ottawa.

Membership Fees

As previously announced in our newsletter last year, the Executive Board decided to change both the fee structure and mechanism of collection of membership fees. The new "one fee only" includes both membership and journal and has been implemented for collection by our Treasurer this year. A prompt response and payment of your annual dues contributes to the effective and efficient running of our Society's financial operation. Please pay your annual dues promptly!

Change of address

We are currently preparing a new membership booklet and it is essential that our Membership List is complete and accurate. Once again, I request your co-operation in informing me of any change of address, if possible including fax and e-mail, that you or other members in your area have experienced recently or since our last booklet edition in 1997. The availability of this information is vital to our Society in order to

function both efficiently and effectively. We count on your co-operation in this matter.

Nominations

The Executive Board invites the Membership to join and actively participate in the various ISPN Committees. You can join a Committee by contacting directly the appropriate Committee Chairman. Participation in committee work is a sign of commitment to participate in the affairs of our Society and a way to demonstrate ability and leadership qualities, which will enable active and capable individuals to fill in Executive Board vacancies as they become available. I encourage you to submit nominations for future vacancies in our Executive Board. You can submit nominations (supported by the proposed candidate's C.V. and letters of recommendation by three active Society Members) directly to me or Alain Pierre-Khan, Chairman of the Nominating Sub-committee. The following posts will become available in our Executive Board next year: President Elect, By-Laws, Liaison, Education and Audit Committees.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your families my very best wishes for happiness, peace and prosperity!

Enrique C.G. Ventureyra

Ottawa, Canada

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board Meeting was held on Friday, June 29, 2001 at 13:00 hours at Aalborg Culture & Conference Center, Aalborg, Denmark.

01.1.1. Presidential Welcome

President Alain Pierre-Kahn welcomes the Executive Board and thanks Jens Haase for organizing the meeting this year. The President makes a short introduction to the meeting indicating his desire to discuss possible amendments to the ISPN Bylaws with reference to the procedure for selection and election of executive board members. In addition he makes a short reference to the importance of considering the production of an annual special issue of Child's Nervous System on selected topics. Vice President Jonathan Peter makes a brief introduction and supports the bylaws amendments proposed by the President.

01.1.2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 2000

The minutes of the previous meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey had been previously circulated. Not having errors, omissions or amendments, the minutes were unanimously approved.

01.1.3. Annual Meeting Reports

a) 2000 - Istanbul. Saffet Mutluer reports on the completion of a very successful meeting and submits a comprehensive report including the Annual Convention Cost Summary and a cheque to Treasurer Oi for \$560.00. This amount representing the profit of the meeting. The start up ISPN Loan of \$10,000.00 was refunded previously.

b) 2001 - Aalborg. Jens Haase submits his annual meeting report indicating the participation of 141 members from 30 countries. 23 spouses and 9 participants sponsored by the ISPN. The Scientific Program included 20 sessions with 76 oral presentations and a poster session of 33 posters. Almost all presentations were registered via Internet at the ISPN web site that functioned very well under Rick Abbott and Spiros Sgouros supervision. The budget for this meeting balances around 700,000.00 DKK and the \$10,000.00 U.S. loan from ISPN will be refunded to the treasurer during the summer. The importance of the availability of ISPN grants for participation of young neurosurgeons with financial problems was emphasized. A few problems were identified during the organization of the meeting and among them the problem of co-coordinating the preliminary acceptance of a paper in the program and the collection of the registration fee. In addition participants taking advantage of reduced early registration fees but not paying such fees until on site.

c) 2002 - Kyoto, Japan. Shizuo Oi presents and distributes the second announcement including registration forms and a preliminary program for next year's annual meeting, which will coincide with the 30th anniversary of the ISPN Foundation. The meeting will extend from October 25th to 31st, 2002 with pre-congress events beginning on October 24th, 2002. The pre-congress events will take place in Awaji Island and will consist of seminars and sport events. The Annual Meeting will begin on Sunday, October 27th with Executive Board and Committee meetings during the day and a Welcome Reception in the evening. The format of the meeting will include 3 full days and 1 half day for the scientific program. A Presidential Dinner is planned on Wednesday, October 30th, 2002. The deadline for abstract submission was set for May 31, 2002. Given that Shizuo Oi has been nominated as President Elect of the Society for next year, it was felt that he should relinquish his role as Annual Meeting Chairman to Past President Kiyoshi Sato. This motion was unanimously approved. The venue for the meeting will be the Kyoto Hotel and the pre-congress events will be in Awaji International Park City.

d) 2003 - Monaco. Alain Pierre-Kahn presents a preliminary program for the meeting to be held from September 14th to September 18th, 2003 at the Monte Carlo Grand Hotel in Monaco. The cost for Hotel Accommodation will be \$155.00 U.S. per night

and \$13.00 for Breakfast. 250 rooms have been reserved for the meeting. In addition there will be other hotels available at more economic rates. Luncheon Seminars are planned during the meeting and a pre-congress workshop on Craniofacial Surgery is planned in Nice, France, sponsored by Midas Rex.

01.1.4. Treasurer's Report

Shizuo Oi submits and presents a full treasurer report showing a new balance for this year of \$147,135.31 U.S. This reports shows that as decided in the Executive Board Meeting of the year 2000, the system for collection of fees was reverted to the previous system, in which the ISPN treasurer collects the fees directly from the members for the year 2001. Springer transferred the ISPN money of membership fees on January 17, and May 21st 2001 for the year 2000. This amount is shown on Figure number 1 of the report. 01.1.5.

Committee Reports

a) Audit: Dr. Velardi was absent and had sent his regrets indicating that there was no report from his committee.

b) Bylaws: Paul May presents his report previously filed with the secretariat with reference to a proposed amendment to our bylaws regarding the selection and election of executive board members. The proposal for discussion was: 1. Every year vacant positions on the Executive Board should be published in the ISPN newsletter at least 3 months before the general assembly. 2. Members submit their candidature to the nominating sub-committee. The committee proceeds to a first selection according to criteria. 3. Minimal 10 years as active ISPN member. 4. Significant contribution to local development of pediatric neurosurgery or international literature by review of CV and a form of continental restriction in terms of numbers. After discussing these issues it was decided to invite the membership via newsletter to join and actively participate in the various ISPN committees of their choice showing in this manner their commitment to participate in the affairs of our society, demonstrate their ability and leadership qualities which will enable active and capable individuals to fill in executive board vacancies as they become available.

c) Membership: Dr. Cho submits and presents his report including 13 new candidate members and he emphasizes the importance of a reliable data base for the membership list which will become available in the ISPN 30th Anniversary Book and web-site. The 13 candidate members listed where, Drs. Keith Goh, Singapore; Seong Kim, Korea; Nobuhito Morota, Japan; William Peter Vandertop, The Netherlands; Matthieu Vinchon, France; Tamotsu Miki, Japan; Seung-ki Kim, Korea; Tenoch Herrada-Pineda, Mexico; Wan-You Guo, Taiwan; Frank Van Calenbergh, Belgium; Meng-Fai Kuo, Taiwan; Beatriz Elida Mantese, Argentina; Miguel Andres Ibanez, Argentina. This list of candidate members was voted and unanimously approved. Dr. Cho will write to the new members informing them of the approval of their application for ISPN Membership. Dr. Ventureyra will look into the preparation,

production and mailing of certificates of membership for the new members. Drs. Cho and Ventureyra will continue to work on a final membership list for publication in the ISPN 30th Anniversary Book and Web site.

d) Education: In Paul Steinbok's absence Anthony Hockley attended the meeting presenting the Committee's Report. During 2000, since the last meeting, successful courses had been held in India in Mumbai and Bombay from November 16 to 20, 2000. As well as Egypt, Ismailia from October 12th to 15th, 2000. Future courses listed were Singapore, this first South Eastern Asia course will take place between September 21 and 23, 2001. A Red Sea Course in Egypt will be held in January 2002. The second Argentina course will be held either in April or October 2002. In view of the ISPN Kyoto annual meeting being held in October, it was suggested that the Argentina Meeting should be held in April if possible. There was also a discussion about a third part of this course taking place in 2004. A further three part course in India has been planned, starting either in October or November 2002. With regard to other possible courses Morocco, Tunisia and Central America are under consideration. One area that needs exploration is Mainland China and in this regard it was felt that Tai-Tong Wong maybe able to assist in the organization of this future course.

e) Liaison: Hugo Pomata reported on the creation of a pediatric neurosurgery chapter of the FLANC. Dr. Pomata received instructions from this committee in how to develop a closer relationship between the emerging Latin American Pediatric Neurosurgery Societies and the ISPN.

f) Publications: Tad Tomita made reference to the publication of this year's newsletter, which was sent out at the beginning of June. In the future this newsletter will be published in Child's Nervous System. The publication of the 30th Anniversary Book was discussed and the preparation and publication of this book will be coordinated by Dr. Tomita assisted by Drs, Oi, Ventureyra, Cho and Rueda-Franco. The printing of the book will be done in Japan under the supervision of Shizuo Oi at an estimated cost of \$20,000.00 U.S. The possibility of replacing the name of Publication to "Communication" Committee was discussed. This motion received full support from the Executive Board Members and was unanimously approved. Hence the name of Publications Committee has now been replaced with Communications Committee.

g) Ethics: Koreaki Mori was absent at the meeting and had sent his regrets indicating that there was no report from his committee.

h) Nominating: Harold Rekate presented the following slate of nominations proposed by his committee. Jonathan Peter, President; Shizuo Oi, President Elect; Enrique Ventureyra, Secretary; Kiyoshi Sato, Annual Meeting Chairman; Rick Abbott, Treasurer; Paul May, Bylaws; Paul Steinbok, Education; Alain Pierre-Kahn, Nominating; Francesco Velardi, Audit; Tadanori Tomita, Publications; Hugo Pomata, Liaison; Gordon McComb, Ethics; Byung-Kyu Cho, Membership; Joong Uhn Choi, Ways and Means; Carlo Mazza, Scientific; Fernando Rueda-Franco, Historian. This slate of nominations for new Executive Board Officers for 2001-2002 was unanimously approved by the committee and for presentation at the Annual Business Meeting.

i) Ways and Means: Tai-Tong Wong reports no activity from his committee during the year.

j) Scientific: Rick Abbott reports on the extensive work of the scientific Committee to judge 86 abstracts submitted, most of them electronically, of which 71 were selected from platform presentation and 33 for poster presentation. The possibility of discussing the poster presentations during the meeting was deliberated and decided that authors of posters and attendees should be encouraged to discuss the posters during the meeting.

01.1.6. Historian

Dr. Rueda-Franco presents his report describing his endeavors in the preparation of the ISPN History Book, which will be included in the ISPN 30th Anniversary Book. Dr. Rueda-Franco has contacted and invited all former Chairmen of the ISPN Annual Meetings for their contribution by writing an account of their meeting and their cities to be included in the book. The response to this appeal thus far appears encouraging; hence the production of this book will become possible and should be ready for printing prior to the Kyoto meeting. The budget for printing of the ISPN Anniversary Book is of \$20,000.00 U.S. This budget was approved by the Committee and the target date for publication will be before the next annual meeting in Kyoto in October 2002.

01.1.7. Child's Nervous System

Dr. Concezio Di Rocco submits and presents his Chief Editor Report and his presentation centered mainly on the problem of competition with other journals (impact factor). The Editorial Board of Child's Nervous System at previous meeting has decided to implement the publication of 6 issues of the journal per year instead of the usual monthly publication. The possibility to include in the editorial board more experts in different fields related to pediatric neuroscience was discussed as well as the possibility of changing the format of the existing editorial board. Special topic reviews covered by various groups and led by members of this committee has been agreed upon. The publications /communications committee was requested to prepare the publishing of monographs, which would be sponsored by the ISPN. So far 3 subjects have been identified, Fetal Neurosurgery (Oi), Craniopharyngioma (Tomita), Conjoined Twins (Peter). The first annual monograph "Fetal Neurosurgery" will be edited by Oi, Pierre-kahn and Raybaud. The future publication of review papers, focus papers, and monographs were extensively discussed.

01.1.8. Business Arising / New Business

Amendments to Bylaws. The proposal for a revised Mission and Vision statement for our society has been previously circulated via Newsletter. This proposed amendment to our Bylaws was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Meeting Selection for 2006. A proposal for a meeting to be held in Goa, India submitted by Dr. Bhagwati was acknowledged but it was felt that it was too early to make a decision about the meeting in 2006, hence the meeting site selection for that year will be postponed until the next executive board meeting to be held in Tokyo in October, 2002. A proposal was made for the creation of the Anthony J. Raimondi Award for Best Paper by young neurosurgeons. Application for this award will be limited to neurosurgeons within 5 years from graduation. Papers should be first submitted for consideration for publication in Child's Nervous System indicating that the paper should be considered for the A.J. Raimondi award. The winner of the award, in addition to having the paper published in Child's Nervous System, will be invited to present his/her paper at the next Annual Meeting with traveling expenses paid by the ISPN. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Committee.

There was no other business; the meeting was adjourned at 18:00 hours.

Enrique C.G. Ventureyra, ISPN Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

***The annual business meeting was held on Saturday, June 30, 2001 at 17:00 hours
At Aalborg Culture & Conference Center, Aalborg, Denmark***

After the Presidential Welcome the same agenda as the Executive Board Meeting was followed (minutes attached).

Publication/Communication Committee Report. Dr. S. Sgouros made a progress report on the development of the web-site.

Liaison Committee: On behalf of the committee Dr. G. Zuccaro presented the composition of the Pediatric Neurosurgery Chapter of the FLANC.

Nominating Committee: Two members at large were elected by the membership to join the Nominating Sub-committee and these members were Dr. M. Caldarelli (Italy) and Dr. G. Zuccaro (Argentina).

The meeting was adjourned at 18:15 hours.

Enrique C.G. Ventureyra, ISPN Secretary

Message from Treasurer

I would like to thank the membership for their understanding and patience with regards the collection of the 2002 yearly dues. At this point 163 have paid their dues for 2002. Because of contractual agreements with Springer Verlag those who have not paid their dues will not be considered active. The reason for this is we are receiving a deep discount in subscription costs for journal by agreeing to have all of our membership subscribe to it.

I am in discussion with the bank holding our funds about being able to use Master Charge and VISA to pay our dues starting in 2003. It will cost roughly \$5.00 US per charge to do this. This will be discussed at our up coming executive business meeting in Kyoto. Of course you will still be able to pay your dues using bank checks and electronic bank transfers. I would discourage the use of personal checks written on banks outside of North America as our bank charges close to \$30 US to process each this.

Again, thank you for you patience during this transition and I look forward to serving as your treasurer.

Rick Abbott

New York, NY

Message from Education Committee

The 1st South East Asian Pediatric Neurosurgery Course was held from 23-25 March 2002, at the auditorium of KK Women's & Children's Hospital in Singapore. This had originally been scheduled for 21-23 September 2001, but was postponed after the events of 11 September 2001.

Originally, there were a total of 65 registrants from 10 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Of these, 57 registrants attended the rescheduled course in March.

Registration fees for 11 trainee neurosurgeons were waived, and 3 were fully sponsored (air-travel and hotel accommodation). Two of these trainees were from the Philippines, with sponsorship courtesy of the Organizing Committee. One trainee was

from Vietnam, with sponsorship courtesy of Dr Charles Teo from Sydney, Australia (air-travel) and the Organizing Committee (hotel accommodation).

The topics included hydrocephalus, brain malformations, head trauma, spinal dysraphism, and posterior fossa tumors. Faculty comprised Drs Abbott, Pierre-Kahn, Steinbok, Teo, and Tai Tong Wong. The organizing committee was chaired by Dr. Keith Goh, and the scientific chairman was Dr. Steinbok.

The course ran very well, and based on the formal evaluations by the registrants, the overall rating of the course was very good. The debates and discussions were thought provoking and stimulated interesting exchanges between audience and faculty. There was a suggestion that lecture notes should be made available as pre-course reading, perhaps distributed by e-mail. Also, some felt that real case studies, as well as problematic cases for discussion would be useful. A hands-on workshop would also be beneficial, for example to teach neuro-endoscopy.

Since the interest level amongst the neurosurgical community of South East Asia is high, a second and third course will very likely receive great support. Interest in hosting such a course has been expressed by participants from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Paul Steinbok,

Vancouver, Canada

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