

## Society Newsletter 2003

Prepared by Dr Tadanori Tomita, Communications Chairman, August 2003

Dear Dr Harkness,

Professor Shizuo Oi hosted the 30th Congress of the ISPN in Kyoto, Japan in October 2002. We owe our Japanese colleagues for the Congress' success, largely due to their wonderful organizational efforts. The congress returned to Japan for the first time since its inception in Tokyo in 1972, when I participated as one of the slide projectionists while I was a naïve junior resident at Kobe University. Professor Satoshi Matsumoto hosted that meeting as the first Congress Chairman. Since then we have witnessed marvelous technological and medical advancements. At the Kyoto Congress, there were interesting presentations and intriguing discussions in every aspect of pediatric neurosurgical science, delivered utilizing the most advanced computerized technology. Numerous papers concerning biomedical research to new therapeutic techniques were presented. We learned together, and also taught each other new scientific knowledge. It was a wonderful experience to take home newly learned knowledge for tomorrow's patient care and research projects.

The social events gave us an opportunity to renew many old friendships and to get acquainted with new friends from around the world; which is one of the multiple goals that our society was created for by our founding fathers. Shizuo and Noriko arranged the wonderful social activities along the Kamo River, where nice autumn weather greeted us. Many attendees enjoyed sight seeing and visitations to the magnificent temples and shrines in this historic capital of Japan.

The society extends its sincere appreciation to Professor Oi and his staff for their remarkable work organizing such a wonderful and stimulating meeting. We will never forget these enriching experiences.

We are going to have a very exciting 31st annual meeting of the ISPN in Monaco from the 14th to the 18th of September 2003. Professor Alain Pierre-Kahn is very happy to host the scientific meeting and greet us at the social activities in this beautiful medeteranean city. Please join us by visiting the ISPN web site ([www.ispn.org](http://www.ispn.org)) for further information concerning programs and social events. We all look forward to seeing one another again in Monaco.

We would like to express special appreciation to Professor Jonathan Peter, 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.

**Message from the ISPN President**

Development of ISPN in Harmony For more than one century, surgeons have been committed to developing new treatments of hydrocephalus or congenital CNS malformations. The development of special field "Pediatric Neurosurgery" has been the major means of progress, especially in last 30 years. The International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery [ISPN] was founded in 1972 by the passionate devotion to such specific field of neurosurgery with Anthony J. Raimondi (1928-2000), as the father of modern pediatric neurosurgery, and other ten founding members in the world. The first international annual scientific meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan in October 1973. Since then, the ISPN has become a highly specialized type of neurosurgical society with in-depth publications and presentations of research data or techniques. It has also made a great contribution to clarify a broad overview and current assessment of a global, multidisciplinary field of our common interest.

The Bylaw of ISPN indicates the Mission Statement in Article II, as "The Mission of ISPN is to improve the health and welfare of children requiring neurosurgical care throughout the world by scientific research and close international cooperation irrespective of class, color, creed or economic condition". Based on this Mission, the ISPN developed in harmony and the numbers of the ISPN members reached to 452 from 54 countries in last 30 years: USA (140), Japan (56), Korea (27), France (21), Canada (19), Italy (15), India (14), Australia (13), U.K. (12), Argentina (11), Brazil (11), Turkey (11), Egypt (8), Germany (7), Spain (7), Norway (6), Saudi Arabia (6), Chile (5), Taiwan R.O.C. (5), Singapore (4), Belgium (3), Czecho Republic (3), Denmark (3), Israel (3), Switzerland (3), the Netherlands (3), Finland (2), Ireland (2), Macedonia (2), Mexico (2), Nigeria (2), Panama (2), Sweden (2), Venezuela (2), Algeria (1), Austria (1), Ecuador (1), Hong Kong (1), Hungary (1), Indonesia (1), Iran (1), Jordan (1), Kuwait (1), Morocco (1), New Zealand (1), Peru (1), Poland (1), Romania (1), Russia (1), South Africa (1), Syria (1), Thailand (1), Tunisia (1) and Yugoslavia (1).

The initial Executive Board was constructed with Jacques Rougerie, the first director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital in Paris, as the first President of ISPN, and Anthony J. Raimondi, the Chairman of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, as the first Secretary of ISPN. Since then, the President and Secretary of ISPN have been succeeded by the leaders of pediatric neurosurgery from the major 4 geographic regions in the world alternatively. And in last 30 years, our society, ISPN, continues to grow in harmony with the knowledge and spirit confirmed first at the Organizational Meeting in Chicago, USA, *"To avoid any national domination from the onset of what we know will be a highly successful Society"* (Ken Till). A concept of the close international cooperation irrespective of class, color, creed or economic condition, emphasized in our Mission Statement, is our spiritual backbone. *"There is no division in the body, but all its different parts have same concern for one another, If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness"* (1 Corinthians 12-25,26).

The year of 1973, it was *"baptismal founts"* (Jacques Rougerie). Our society, the ISPN, started the activity holding the first annual meeting in 1973. I graduated from university school of medicine and started the residency in neurosurgery in 1973 as well. The development of the society and the individual member passes identically. They make their ways and advance in harmony in themselves. They got certainly

many heavy, painful and desperate phases, but they carry themselves through the partly disturbed maturation process and sometimes a big stormy, flood. They preceded again the maturation process.

*"Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail" (1 Corinthians 13-7)*

## References

1. Raimondi AJ: History of ISPN. 20th Anniversary Members' Booklet, ISPN (Ed. Oi S, Secretary) Tor Art, Kobe, 1992
2. Oi S, Sato K, Venturayra E at al (Ed.): 30th Anniversary Members' Booklet, ISPN, Narunia, Tokyo, 2002

Shizuo Oi Tokyo, Japan

## **Message from the ISPN Past President**

Dear Colleagues,

It is with some nostalgia that I look back upon my year of Presidency. The ISPN unlike the larger Neurosurgery Societies retains a sense of intimacy and honesty that makes it unique among international organizations.

The 30th Anniversary Meeting which was so successfully organized by our President Shizuo Oi and his colleagues in the beautiful city of Kyoto had a special significance for me as well as our Society. Most of you will know that the first meeting of the ISPN took place in Japan and the historic city of Kyoto has been the place where many significant international initiatives have originated. The city itself, with its many temples and beautiful gardens generates a tranquil quality not felt in many large cities.

Jean-Francois Hirsch joked in his Presidential address in Rome that the Presidency is the easiest job of the ISPN executive, because one is supported by hardworking colleagues who do all the really important work! I certainly experienced this and would like to thank all the Committee Chairpersons and their colleagues who work selflessly to make our Society function so smoothly. My tasks were simply a pleasure and an honour.

We are an international Society and sometimes world events of a political nature threatened to influence our task of education and the exchange of international scientific information. During the 30th Anniversary Meeting the executive recommitted the ISPN to continue to meet our international mission of educating and helping to improve neurosurgery across all socio-political barriers, and that

international politics would not be allowed to determine who could teach what and where. I do believe this was an important decision as I see international politics in this unstable world of ours continuing to interfere in many aspects of medical education.

I had a great year, and it was my privilege to hand the baton of the Presidency to Shizuo Oi in Kyoto. I look forward to seeing you all in Monaco.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan C. Peter

Capetown, South Africa

## **Message from the Secretary**

### ***Annual Meetings***

After an exiting Meeting in Kyoto last October we will be meeting again in Monaco next September. This forthcoming event will provide once again an opportunity to update our knowledge with the latest developments in our field and rekindle old and new friendship in beautiful surroundings. Future meetings will be held in the following cities; Buenos Aires in 2004 (H.Pomata), Vancouver in 2005 (P.Steinbok ) and Taipei in 2006 ( T. Wong). This year our Executive Board will be considering future venues for the Annual Meeting in 2007. 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 certificates of Membership are automatically issued to new members few months after the Annual Meeting and are also available upon request to all members that wish to have the "New" certificate. There is no charge for the New Certificate, and can be obtained by writing to me at the Secretariat office in Ottawa.

### ***Membership Fees***

A timely response and payment of your annual dues contributes to the smooth running of our Society's financial operation. Please don't delay it !

### ***Change of Address***

I request your cooperation 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 2002. This information is vital to our Society to function both efficiently and effectively. We count on you!

### ***Nominations***

I encourage you to submit nominations for future vacancies in our Executive Board .You can submit nominations, directly to me or to Jonathan Peter, chairman of the nominating committee.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your families my best wishes and to thank you for all your support and encouragement during my four year tenure in this office.

Enrique C.G. Ventureyra

Ottawa, Canada

### **Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting**

***Sunday, October 27, 2002, 0800 Yunohana-Onsen, Kameoka, Japan***

#### ***02.1.1. Presidential Welcome***

President Jonathan Peter welcomes the Executive Board and thanks Shizuo Oi for organizing the meeting this year. After a short introduction, President Peter discusses the necessity of reviewing and endorsing the American guidelines for head injuries in children. For this purpose three ISPN members will be identified.

#### ***02.1.2. Minutes of Previous Meeting -2001***

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

#### ***02.1.3. Annual Meeting Reports***

a) 2001 - Aalborg. Jens Haase had sent his regrets and because of his unavailability to attend this meeting a report from last year annual meeting was not available.

b) 2002 - *Kyoto*. Vice President Shizuo Oi reports on the Kyoto Meeting organization This year with a current registration of 160 people. Of these, 120 participants and 40 accompanying persons. He outlines briefly the program that includes a symposium on Chiari I Malformation and Syringomyelia and a symposium on Endoscopy. He also mentions the open forum for the citizen entitled "Love for the Child" that will take place at the end of the meeting in the afternoon on October 31, 2002.

c) 2003 - *Monaco*. Alan Pierre-Khan confirms once again that the date of the meeting will be September 14-18, 2003 and that the meeting will take place at the Monte Carlo Grand Hotel in Monaco. He reports on the organization of the meeting and the necessity to decrease the number of oral presentations to accommodate the various symposia planned for the meeting. The possibility of having poster presentations in the hotel foyer between tables, to be discussed during lunch breaks, was discussed. The need for more sponsorship was discussed considering that the preliminary budget shows a shortfall of approximately 50,000 Euros. Nevertheless, it was felt that with forthcoming donations from the industry and registrations for the meeting the anticipated shortfall of funds will be covered. The presentation of the monograph on Fetal Surgery is planned during the meeting. There will be focus sessions on Functional Neurosurgery including Epilepsy Surgery and Abnormal Movement Disorders. Also there will be a session on AVM's with presentations on comparative results of surgical management versus a more conservative endovascular and/or radiosurgical approach. The deadline for abstracts submission for the meeting will be April 15, 2003.

d) 2004 - *Buenos Aires*. Edgardo Schjiman, secretary of the organizing committee for ISPN 2004 represents Hugo Pomata at this meeting who was unable to attend this year. He reports on the preliminary organization of the Congress that will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from September 5 to September 9, 2004 at the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel and Convention Center. The organizing committee is looking forward to attract participants from neighboring Latin American Countries. A pre-congress ISPN sponsored CME course is anticipated.

#### **02.1.4. Treasurer's Report**

Rick Abbott files his treasurer report and indicates that members not paying the Membership dues will not receive the journal. The treasurer receives approval by the Executive Board for collection of payment by credit card and because of this an extra \$5.00 will be added to the annual fee to cover the costs for credit card collections. This year 175 members have paid their dues in full, out of the 250 for the total ISPN Active Membership. The implementation of a single fee including membership fees and journal was again ratified at this meeting.

#### **02.1.5. Committee Reports**

a) *Audit*: Francesco Velardi reports on the legalities involved in the auditing process. In order to have a central repository, for this purpose, it was decided that all documents will be kept in the Secretariat office.

b) *Bylaws*: Paul May indicates that there was no new activity during the year, hence no report was available.

c) *Membership*: Byung-Kuy Cho presents the names of 20 new members; Dr. Dattatraya P. Muzumdar, India; Dr. Canon Xian-Lun Zhu, Hong Kong; Dr. Wolfgang Wagner, Germany; Dr. Michael Dean Medlock, USA; Dr. Mehmet Saim Kazan, Turkey; Dr. Antonio F. Germano, Italy; Dr. Francesco Sala, Italy; Dr. David H. Harter, USA; Dr. Thomas Zech, Austria; Dr. Yuzuru Tashiro, Japan; Dr. R. Murali, India; Dr. Ali Arslantas, Turkey; Dr. Koichi Takahashi, Japan; Dr. Hiroji Miyake, Japan; Dr. Toshiki Yamasaki, Japan, Dr. Kyong Hon Pooh, Japan; Dr. Izumi Koyanagi, Japan; Dr. Toru Fukuhara, Japan; Dr. Hideo Hamada, Japan; Dr. Hiroaki Date, Japan. This list of candidate members was voted and unanimously approved.

d) *Education*: Paul Steinbok hands in a full report on the activities on his committee during the year. Two courses are anticipated in the next year. It was felt that in general the CME courses should include a faculty that represents well the ISPN by including members from the different Continents. It was recommended to organizers of these courses that there should be no local interference with the courses by political or religious reasons. The activities of the Education Committee included in this report gave details of Pediatric Neurosurgery courses held during 2002, including Singapore in March, Tafi del Valle, Argentina in April, Rabat Morocco in October and Bangalore India in November. This report also shows a survey on Chiari I malformation carried out in 2002 by Edgardo Schjiman under the auspices of the education committee. A course planned for January, 2002 in Egypt had been cancelled.

e) *Liaison*: Because Hugo Pomata was unable to attend the meeting this year, Enrique Ventureyra on his behalf presents the activities of the Liaison Committee during the year. This report describes the creation and leadership composition of the Pediatric Chapter of the Latin-American Federation of Neurosurgery. The relationship established with the Societies of Neurosurgery of Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay and Chile in order to plan joint activities was slo described. This initiative resulted in the participation of representatives of these Societies in the Second Argentine Course of Pediatric Neurosurgery held in Tafi del Valle in April, 2002. Hugo Pomata reports that his experience in the last year has shown a close relationship between the education and liaison committees.

f) *Communications*: Tad Tomita reports that due to costs, the production of a Newsletter next year will not practical, hence the Newsletter in 2003 will be posted in the ISPN web-site or via electronic publishing. He also reports on the forthcoming publication of the monograph on Craniopharyngiomas and discusses about the co-ordination of the publication of special issues that should be done in communication with both the Chief Editor of Child's Nervous System and the Chief Editor of each special issue. Currently the manuscripts approved are on Craniopharyngiomas, Conjoined Twins, and Fetal Surgery. These projects will be announced at the Annual

Business Meeting requesting the membership to send proposals for Publication to the Editor of each special issue.

*g) Ethics:* Gordon McComb reports no special activity of his committee during the year.

*h) Nominating:* Alain Pierre-Khan presents the slate of nominations for the ISPN Executive Board for 2002/2003 as follows: President, Shizuo Oi; President Elect, Marion Walker; Secretary, Enrique Ventureyra; Treasurer, Rick Abbott; Annual Meeting Chairman, Alain Pierre-Khan; Audit, Francesco Velardi; Bylaws, Paul Steinbok, Communications, Tad Tomita; Education, Tai-Tong Wong; Ethics and Morals, Gordon McComb; Liaison, Hugo Pomata; Membership, B.K. Cho; Nominating, Jonathan Peter; Scientific Program, Carlo Mazza; Ways & Means, J. Choi; Historian, Fernando Rueda Franco; Editor Child's Nervous System, Concencio Di Rocco. The Board unanimously approved this slate of nominations for new Officers in 2002-03.

*i) Ways and Means:* Dr. Choi files in his report on activities of his committee with the list of names of recipients for the ISPN Scholarship (5) this year and the recipients were: Boleslav L. Lichterman, Trimurti D. Nadkarni, A.K. Mohapatra, Manas Kumar Panigrahi, and Ts. Enkhbayar.

*j) Scientific:* Carlo Mazza reports that this year his committee integrated by himself, Rick Abbott, Spyros Sgouros, Yasuo Yamanouchy and Graciela Zuccaro received 141 abstracts for review of which 103 were accepted for oral presentation and 24 for poster presentation. He indicates that beginning this year for the first time they have introduced the oral poster session. The deadline for abstract submission for next years meeting in Monaco was set for April 15, 2003. This year, for the first time the Raimondi Award will be presented. The winner was Dr. Francesco Sala from Verona Italy with his paper entitled "Intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring in pediatric neurosurgery: why, when, how?". Submissions for this award should be sent to Professor C. Di Rocco, Editor of Child's Nervous System. It was felt that the membership should be encouraged to present more papers for the competition for this award.

#### **02.1.6. Historian**

Dr. Fernando Rueda Franco was unable to attend the meeting this year due to a clash of meeting dates and other commitments that he has acquired by becoming Second Vice President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. He has sent a letter expressing his regrets in attending this meeting and his inability to complete the Historian Report due to poor response from the Society Members that he has contacted for this purpose.

#### **02.1.7. Child's Nervous System**

The production of six issues per year was once again discussed as well as the new format of the journal including focus sessions, the first one recently published during the year on Thalamic Tumors. Concezzio Di Rocco indicated that the impact factor has improved to 0.8 from last year. He also indicates that the biography of the three most recent ISPN past presidents will be published in the journal soon. Of the subscriptions from the membership, only 150 were paid. Tai Ton Wong was proposed for the Journal's Geographic Editorial Position for Chinese speaking countries.

#### **02.1.8. Business Arising / New Business**

2006 Meeting Selection : The following bids were received: Louxor, Egypt (Ahmed Assaad), Liverpool, England (Paul May), Goa, India (Sanat Bhagwati), Taipei, Taiwan (Tai Tong Wong). After discussing the different possibilities for the forthcoming meeting, it was unanimously decided that Taipei, Taiwan will be the site for the annual meeting in 2006. Although it was not finally decided, Liverpool UK should be seriously considered for the forthcoming annual meeting in 2007. The issue of the 2007-meeting site selection will be considered and decided by the Board next year.

#### **02.1.9 Correspondence**

Correspondence received by our historian Dr. Rueda Franco, and a letter of condolences sent on behalf of this Board to Bruce Hendrick's widow were included in the secretarial file.

There being no other businesses the meeting was adjourned at 1200 hours.

Prepared by Enrique C.G. Ventureyra, M.D., ISPN Secretary. November, 2002

#### **Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting**

*Monday, October 28, 2002 at 1610 hrs. Hotel Okura, Kyoto, Japan*

After the Presidential Welcome the same agenda as the Executive Board Meeting was followed (minutes attached). The minutes of previous meeting held in Aalborg in 2001 had been previously circulated via Newsletter. The minutes were presented for approval and after motion for approval made by Harold Rekate and seconded by David McClone these minutes were unanimously approved. Shizuo Oi presented the 30th Anniversary Booklet that includes the amended ISPN Bylaws and the updated membership list of the Society.

As part of the Communications Committee Report Dr. S. Sgouros made a progress report on the development of the ISPN Web-site. Edgardo Schijman from Buenos Aires and Paul Steinbok from Vancouver made brief presentations about the forthcoming ISPN Meetings for 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Nominating Committee Report. After approval of the proposed slate of nominations for this year, two members at large were elected by the membership to join the nominating sub-committee and these members were Dr. Sung Kyoo Hwang (Korea) and Memet Ozek (Turkey).

The meeting was adjourned at 17:10 hrs.

Prepared by Enrique C.G. Ventureyra, ISPN Secretary November, 2002

### **Message from Education Committee**

It's coming up to the 31st ISPN meeting, this year being held in Monaco, and there I shall be reporting to my dear colleagues the works of the education committee since the last meeting in Kyoto. The most important task for the education committee is to implement and to promote approved educational courses in areas of great need. I believe that the ISPN-CME should fulfill the purposes of both education and communication. Thus, CME faculty should come from different continents and this way, local audiences can be exposed to different philosophies, ethics and clinical materials in each specific section of the program.

### ***ISPN courses for 2003***

In 2003, there are two approved educational courses, including the 2nd Southeast Asian Course and the India course in Locknow.

#### *The 2nd Southeast Asian course*

The 1st SEA course was successfully held from 23-25 March 2002 in Singapore under the cooperation of Scientific Chairman Dr. Paul Steinbok and Dr. Keith Goh. This course was actually postponed to 21-23 September 2001 after the events of 11 September 2001.

The 2nd course was scheduled to be held in 2003. However, it was postponed again to July 2004 in Thailand because of an outbreak epidemic of SARS. Dr. Thansathit Sindhujai from Somdet Prapinklao Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand, has already expressed their strong intention to host the educational courses on behalf of the Thai Neurosurgical Society. We need further connection with him in order to fix the date, venue, faculty, and scientific programs.

*Locknow, India - November 7-9, 2003*

The Locknow course will be the 3rd course of the cycle in India. It is our honor to invite Dr. Paul Steinbok as the Scientific Chairman and Dr. Sanat Bhagwati as the local Chairman. Furthermore, Drs. Rich Abbott, Paul Steinbok, Concezzio Di Rocco, Enrique Ventureyra, Hajime Arai, and me would join the Foreign Faculty. This course would be a well-organized 2.5-day course covering topics such as head trauma, supratentorial tumors and spinal tumors, vascular diseases, hypertonic cerebral palsy, and epilepsy surgery.

### ***Other future approved courses***

#### *2nd Moroccan Course*

With regard to the 1st Moroccan course, it was extremely successful to be held in Rabat from 15-17 October, 2002. The course was coordinated by Dr. A El Ouahabi, and was chaired by Dr. A El Khamlichi and Dr. P. Steinbok. Remarkably, the local organizers preferred to complete a cycle of 3 courses after first course according to the report of Dr. P. Steinbok. If there is a second course, it would be held in 2004. Nevertheless, I have not received any message from local organizers up to now. I will find out more details of the 2nd Moroccan course and report it to you all in the Monaco Executive Board Meeting.

#### *3rd Argentinian Course, Buenos Aires*

With reference to the 2nd Argentinian ISPN Pediatric Neurosurgery Course, it was also held successfully. The success of this conference held in Tafi del Valle from April 26-28, 2002 replies on the cooperation of Dr. P. Steinbok and the local organizing committee. The 3rd Argentinian ISPN course has been planned in association with the 2004 ISPN meeting in Buenos Aires. We will discuss the details of this educational course with our Argentina colleagues during the 31st Annual Meeting of ISPN in Monaco.

### ***Courses to be approved***

#### *3rd SEA course in Philippines*

Through the communication with Dr. Seow Wen-Tew in Singapore, we got messages that Philippines would like to host this course. Dr. Gerardo Legaspi will be the local representative to assist in organizing the educational course in 2005, but I am still waiting a formal confirmation letter from him. With this confirmation letter, the

educational committee will initiate the proposal to the executive board meeting for approval.

### *Possibilities of Course in China*

China is a big country with vast population, beautiful lands and cities. The possibility to initiate ISPN educational courses and to fulfill the purpose of ISPN in teaching and improving medicare in the field of pediatric neurosurgery has become a great concern of our senior colleagues. The educational committee is trying to develop a connection with experienced senior pediatric neurosurgeons of China. Undoubtedly, we have done it well. The scheduled educational course in China is not worked out successfully now, but I strongly believe that it is time to launch a proposal to the Monaco executive board meeting for the approval of a possible cycle of ISPN educational course in China in 2005.

### *Application of endorsement from CME course in Central America*

The "Educational course of Pediatric Neurosurgery in Santiago, Cuba, was held during March 13-15, 2003. This educational course was sponsored by FLANC. Dr. Julio Broussard, a pediatric neurosurgeon and coordinator for the course in Cuba, wrote to Dr. Rick Abbott and asked for the possibility of ISPN sponsorship. After reviewing the program and faculty from web (<http://www.santiago.cu/neuroped>), we found that most of the faculties are senior colleagues of ISPN. The program was actually designed with a good quality. From the standpoint of ISPN educational committee, this educational course should have an encouraging support from ISPN. But, there is a concern of that Kyoto Executive Broad Meeting limited only two educational courses with sponsorship in a year. The proposal indeed needed to be initiated during the annual Executive Board Meeting. The general consensus from executive was to endorse the meeting but without financial support. Therefore, I wrote a letter to Dr. Julio S. Brossard Alejo to explain our decision, congratulation and regret.

### *Survey*

The educational committee approved a survey on 'Intrathecal bacofen and rhizotomy' in 2003. This survey was proposed by Dr. Paul Steinbok with the help of Dr. Spyros Squoros through the ISPN website. I deeply hope that more surveys on interesting aspects of pediatric neurosurgery would be proposed to the educational committee from members of ISPN in the near future.

I would like to express my sincere thank you to all of you supporting me or working with me to fulfill our duty in this term of educational committee. I look forward for advice and comment.

Sincerely,

Tai-Tong Wong

Taipei, Taiwan