



ISPN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

## **International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery**

### **Executive Board Meeting**

**Sunday, October 4th, 2015, 10.30 a.m., Didim Hall,**

### **Business Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., Hall A, Smyrna**

**Buyuk Efes Hotel, Izmir, Turkey**

## **Minutes**

### **Presidential Welcome**

**Chandrashekhar. Deopujari**

Chandrashekhar Deopujari welcomes all the participants to the Executive Board Meeting and thanks Executive Board Members for all their work along the immediate past year.

### **President Elect**

**Graciela Zuccaro**

Graciela Zuccaro highlighted the importance of the society work in Latin America given one third of the population is under 18 with a limited number of pediatric neurosurgeons

**Gianpiero Tamburrini** as Secretary introduces the Agenda and the preliminary draft of the minutes. He also asks for the final approval of the minutes of the Rio Meeting, prepared by the immediate past secretary, Shlomi Constantini.

As first point of the Agenda, Gianpiero summarizes the Executive Board Deliberations between the immediate past Annual Meetings (2014 – 2015) as follows:

- **the approval of a new membership category, namely the Low and Middle Income Countries Active Membership, which will be active from 2016 and will be reserved to both new applicants for ISPN membership and already existing ISPN members from lower-middle income countries (as specified yearly by the World Bank). Their application will be fully checked as an additional part of the standard process which will be the same of the other applicants. The fee for this category will be \$100 and will include online access to Child's Nervous System**
- **ISPN travelling fellowship programme** A series of official ISPN travelling fellowships based on an original draft prepared by Conor

Mallucci as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee (see Ways and Means Committee Report).

- **New contract with Springer signed.** The new contract with Springer (retainer fee of \$25,000 for online access for up to 500 members, addn print fee of \$45 per print copy, fixed royalties of \$72,000 – provided articles reach 300 per annum, free publication of congress abstracts online; inclusion of congress abstracts in print version for a fee of \$600, contract 2014-2019)
- **Change to new website provider** – discussed during Communications Committee report

## **Annual Meeting Reports**

### **2014 – Rio de Janeiro**

### **Francisco Salomao**

Francisco summarizes his notes about the Rio Meeting. The Organizing Committee was composed by Drs.: José Francisco M. Salomão (Chairman), Marcia Cristina da Silva, Artur da Cunha, Hamilton Matsushita, Helio Rubens Machado and Nelci Zanon all from Brazil. The Premeeting Course “Update on Neuro-oncology was in charge of Drs. Sergio Cavalheiro (BR), Guirish Solanki (UK) and Gianpiero Tamburrini (IT). The Chairman of the Scientific Committee was Dr. Young-Shin Ra (KOR). The venue was the Windsor Barra da Tijuca Convention Center, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

The total number of registered attendees was 413, with 37 registrants also to the the Premeeting Course. The number of abstracts submitted was 362, 245 of whom were accepted, namely 86 for oral presentation, 76 for flash presentation and 83 for posters.

The final balance was also presented, as a total gain of 82301.70 USD, including a Codman grant of 20.000 USD

## 2015 – Izmir

## Saffet Mutluer

Saffet Mutluer presented the Congress Venue (the Büyük Efes Convention Center in the premises of Swissotel Grand Ephesus). The place was chosen for providing the Society a private and compact area for the daily interaction of the participants, due to the separate area within the hotel premises.

Five floors were present within the venue, with an easy orientation inside it due to appropriate signals.

The total number of registrants was 389, of which 123 were ISPN members and 114 non members.

A pre-congress Course, dedicated to Controversies in Pediatric Neurosurgery was also organized; 81 attendees registered to this event.

Concerning the main meeting scientific programme the overall number of Symposium Lectures has been defined as 13, with 2 Special Lectures. The number of presentations accepted for platform was 88, whereas 94 contributions were accepted for Flash presentation and 139 for poster presentation. Two sponsored Luncheon Symposia completed the programme.

The preliminary budget was exposed:

TOTAL EXPENSES                      252.061 EUR

TOTAL INCOME                        257.614 EUR

with an estimated positive balance of 5.552.60 Eur

## 2016 – Kobe

## Mami Yamasaki (11.20-11.30)

**The established dates are: October 23-27**

- Venue; Kobe Portopia Hotel
- Hosted by JSPN, Aijinkai health corporation,

1. First meeting between Ms. Pinar Akbulut Turat from Kenes Turkey and local committee members with Prof. Mami Yamasaki on January 26 and 27 2015 at Portopia Hotel

-Sight inspection at-

- Meeting rooms (Portopia Hotel)
- Venue for GALA Dinner (Animal Kingdom Kobe)
  - Venue for president dinner etc. at Nada and Nishinomiya's sake breweries
- 
- Venue for sight-seeing (social program) at Himeji Castle, Arima-hot spring and

## Kobe Cruise

-As a Local organization company between JSPN and Kenes, Prime international, Kumiko Sekiguchi was decided.

### 2. Temporary booking of meeting rooms at Portopia hotel and Animal Kingdom.

a. 2017 – Denver

Michael Handler

Michael confirms that the established dates are: October 8-12

First visits to the meeting place by Kenes have started and contract with the Congress Venue established.

b. 2018 - Tel Aviv

Shlomi Constantini

Shlomi confirms the established dates which are October 7-11th, 2018, first visits to the Congress Venue to start during the upcoming year

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Michael Handler**

**(in the place of William Harkness, preparing the report)**

Michael summarizes the report prepared by William Harkness. In Rio de Janeiro the Executive Board endorsed the idea of changing banks. William experienced considerable difficulty with Sterling National, with whom we had historically banked since Rick Abbott's term as Treasurer; these difficulties were because they changed their electronic banking system and in so doing withdrew some of the online facilities, particularly for wire transfers Internationally. In addition, as they are not a global bank and use other banks for clearing their International wires, we were effectively paying double fees on some transactions. We therefore decided to open an account with a global bank; William travelled to New York in January and, after contacts with HSBC and Santander it was approved by the Executive Board to proceed with Santander and over the next month or so the paperwork was processed. It immediately became apparent however that, as a non US resident, the situation was going to be complicated as William had to provide addresses in the US as 'Post Restante' for the Society. The account was 'seeded' with the profits from the Mainz meeting but thereafter nothing else could be added or subtracted not having been given the possibility to make wire transfers.

The income of the Society is derived from three major sources.

1. Membership Subscriptions
2. Revenue from CNS
3. Profit from our Annual Meetings

For 2014 our membership subscriptions and membership matters have been handled by Kenes, our PCO with a considerable improvement in fee collection and accuracy of membership statistics.

As declared in Rio the Mainz meeting was a financial success and the money was received in early 2015 once the accounts had been approved. Dr Francisco Salomao is also to be congratulated as his meeting was also a resounding success not only making a profit but also attracting an educational grant from J&J.

Resuming the incomes for 2015 are as follows:

- Membership Subscriptions
  - 2015 \$111,345
- CNS Royalties for 2014
  - 2014 \$76,021.38
- Annual Meeting Profit Mainz
  - \$57,695.45
- Annual Meeting Profit Rio
  - \$62,254.07 + \$20,000 J&J Educational Grant

#### Outgoings for 2015

Recurrent costs to the Society are as follows:-

1. PCO charge for Kenes, billed quarterly in retrospect
2. Webmaster fees billed annually in advance
3. Springer fees as described above
4. Editorial fees for The Guide
5. Educational Courses and Scholarships
6. Occasional expenses

Resuming outgoings:

- Springer CNS Subscriptions
  - Print €4,725.00
  - Electronic €30,000 \$39,270.95
- Kenes
  - Quarterly Fee \$4,625 x3 = \$13,875.00
- First Data \$6,518.05
- MoonBrand
  - Website Fee \$7,000.00
  - ISPN Guide Launch Materials \$3,450.00
- Audit & Tax Return \$1,775.00 + \$2,425
  
- Educational Courses
  - April 2015 Jeju Korea \$2,000

- April 2015 South Africa \$13,000
- June China 2015 + Translation \$9,000 + \$5,000.00

- Scholarships Rio 2014
  - 9 Awarded @ \$2,000 \$18,000

**Situation of the two Accounts (Sterling National Bank and Santander) at September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Sterling National Bank**

- Certificate of Deposit Accounts
  - CD1 (0.05%) \$57,052.75
    - (2014 \$56,963.33)
  - CD2 (0.05%) \$101,487.53
    - (2014 \$101,434.15)
- International Checking Account
  - \$574,116.62
    - (2014 \$433,832.37)

**Santander**

- Checking Account
  - Single Deposit \$57,695.45
  - Deposit Account Opened \$0

**Total Liquid Assets Sterling + Santander**  
 - \$631,812.07 (\$433,832.37 October 2014)

**Total Assets Including CDs (\$592,229.85 in 2014)**  
 - \$631,812.07 + \$158,540.28 = \$790,352.35

**Recommendations for 2015/6**

- In view of the ongoing problems with electronic banking William offered his resignation from the Treasurers post as he believes that if the Treasurer is Resident in the US or possibly Canada, the process will be greatly simplified.
- Once the new Treasurer is in post and familiar with the banks he believes that a decision can be made about which bank should be used in the future.
- He also suggests that we should follow up on last year's proposal of putting a sum on deposit in order to earn some interest. Approximately \$500k could be placed in one or more saving scheme. To advise on this William suggest the creation of a small working party consisting of the Treasurers, past and present, the Audit Chair and 2 past Presidents.
- Clarification of the First Data (credit card processing company for the Society) charges should be done. Kenes was asked to negotiate a better rate for us.
- Our financial commitment to education should be expanded in 2016 and

suggestions from the Education chairs will be welcomed.

- As a financial officer of the ISPN William suggests that there are potential decisions made by the EB that are now and could in the future be open to influence from commercial organisations. For this reason he proposes that all members of the EB are required to sign a conflict of interest declaration each year and also declare financial benefits and benefits in kind received from any source. A conflict of interest declaration will be prepared by Kenes and proposed for approval to members of the Executive Board.
- Finally, it was brought to William attention by Rick Abbott that the domain name [www.ispn.org](http://www.ispn.org) was available for sale. He purchased this. During the Executive Board it was decided that the Communication Committee together with Kenes will propose a plan to the Executive Board for this domain change.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Audit**

### **Michael Handler**

A proposal was sent by Michael Handler and approved to nominate as members of the Audit Committee Sanjiv Bhatia from Miami, USA and Todd Hankinson from Denver, USA .

The Committee received and reviewed the financial reports and records from Francisco Salomao on the Rio meeting, and after discussion they found all to be in order. The meeting turned a handsome profit for the Society. Expenses seemed appropriate and not disproportionate to what had been planned. As Audit Committee a review was also made of the records of transactions by the Treasure on behalf of the Society, and similarly, all seemed to be in order. Expenses for the administration of the organization were not small, but seemed appropriate to the task.

### **By-Laws**

### **Hamilton Matushita**

The following modifications were completed and finally approved by the Executive Board:

1. Article XI: Rules and Regulations. Features three sections that can be allocated to other articles of the constitution. Section 1 - could be allocated in the Article V, which deals with Meetings. Section 2 could be incorporated into the text

entry of the constitution. Section 3 concerns the invited speakers could be included in Article V of the congress.

2. We are incorporating two minor amendments, already approved by the EB. One of them deals with electronic vote and the other deals with the meaning of quorum for voting any specific issue of business.

**The introduction of an article concerning the new membership category, namely the Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) membership was proposed by Hamilton Matushita. It will be prepared by himself and sent for review.**

## **Membership**

**Louise Gorringe**

**(in place of Reizo Shirane , unable to attend)**

Louise Gorringe presented the membership report

- 28 complete new applications were received, plus 19 pending for completing their documentation. The list of the 28 members with completed application is reported below. They were all unanimously approved to become members of the Society (27 Active Members and 1 Candidate member).

1. Hakan	Karabagli	Turkey	Active Members
2. Miroslav	Gjurasin	Croatia	Active Members
3. Jan V.	Jorgensen	Norway	Active Members
		United States of	
4. Alan R.	Cohen	America	Active Members
5. Aurelia	Peraud	Germany	Active Members
6. Arto	Immonen	Finland	Active Members
7. Kok-kee	Tang	Singapore	Active Members
		United States of	
8. C. Scott	McLanahan	America	Active Members



9. Shailendra	Ashok	Magdum	United Kingdom	Active Members
10. Cagatay	Onal		Turkey	Active Members
11. Mark	Souweidane		United States of America	Active Members
12. Benjamin	Warf		United States of America	Active Members
13. Timothy	Merill	George	United States of America	Active Members
14. Jeffrey	Ojemann		United States of America	Active Members
15. Peter	Woerdeman		Netherlands	Active Members
16. Brent	O'Neill		United States of America	Active Members
17. Alexandre	Maués		Brazil	Active Members
18. David	Chesler		United States of America	Active Members
19. Christian	Ferreira		Brazil	Active Members
20. Eric	Jackson		United States of America	Active Members
21. Enrico	Ghizoni		Brazil	Active Members
22. Masahiro	Nonaka		Japan	Active Members
23. Ryo	Ando		Japan	Active Members
24. Takeyoshi	Shimoji		Japan	Active Members
25. Philippe	Mercier		United States of America	Candidate members
26. Alp Özgün	Börcek		Turkey	Active Members
27. Gokmen	Kahikogullari		Turkey	Active Members

- We also received one application for Senior Membership by Dr. Marion (Jack) Walker; this application also was unanimously approved.

Based also on these new applications the total number of ISPN members is 315 (304/315 as Active Members), of whom 265 renewed from 2014 and 22 renewed from previous years. Graciela Zuccaro pointed out that this is still quite a low number, especially if we remember that in developing countries, children represent 2/3 of the population. Therefore, there must be many pediatric neurosurgeons or general surgeons who treat children who don't even know the ISPN exists.

**In order to attract them to become ISPN members she suggested that:**

- **That the Liason Committee prepare a list of all pediatric neurosurgeons and general surgeons operating on children around the world**
- **That the Membership Committee send an invitation to all of those, inviting them to join our society, informing them about the dedicated reduced annual fee for neurosurgeons coming from what the World Health Organization considers Low and Middle Income Countries.**

**Wan Tew Seow as Chair of the Education Committee also suggested to produce advertising materials for courses/meetings i.e. slides and application forms**

## **Education**

## **Wan Tew Seow/Federico Di Rocco**

Wan Tew Seow and Federico Di Rocco resumed the activities of the Education Committee held during the past year as follows:

1. Asian and Australasian members of the Education Committee joined with Asian pediatric neurosurgeons to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of Asian-Australasian Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (AASPN) and Inaugural Meeting (AASPN 2015) which was held from March 20-22, 2015 in Taipei, Taiwan, although this was not an official ISPN Education Committee activity. Prof Tai Tong Wong, past ISPN president, was the first President of the AASPN and Dr Meng Fai Kuo was the Inaugural Congress President. This meeting marked the first time pediatric neurosurgeons from Asia and Australasia have gathered together to hold their first regional meeting. Many of the speakers for this meeting were ISPN Education Committee members, who contributed greatly to the teaching program.

2. A combined ISPN-AASPN-KSPN Education Course on Pediatric Neurosurgery during the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Australasian Congress of Neurological Surgeons (AACNS) on 17 April 2015 in Jeju Island, Korea. The theme for this Course was “Morbidities in Pediatric Neurosurgery: Untold Stories for the M&M Conference” during which case reports of complications of various pediatric neurosurgical procedures and how to avoid them were discussed by several speakers from the KSPN and AASPN. The ISPN supported Prof Dachling Pang, who spoke on “Spinal Dysraphism Surgery – What Could Go Wrong?”.

3. The ISPN-ESPN-South African (AfPNS) Course Module 2, was held in Stellenborch, South Africa from 24-27 April 2015. As per 2014, the course organiser was Prof Graham Figgen and his faculty from the University of South Africa. This is a series of 3 annual courses modelled after the ESPN Course in Pediatric Neurosurgery for the training of paediatric neurosurgeons in Continental Africa. ISPN Faculty members contributing to the course were Dr Syril James from France, Dr Vedantam Rajashekar from India, Dr Benicio Oton de Lima from Brazil, Dr Abhaya Kulkarni from Canada and Dr Seow Wan Tew from Singapore. The other faculty members were from Africa.

4. An ISPN Education Course was held from 13-14 June 2015 in conjunction with the Pediatric Neurosurgery Chapter of the Chinese Medical Association and the Chinese

Pediatric Neurosurgery Forum in Chongqing, Western China. The course was organised together with Prof Ma Jie, Prof Ping Liang and Prof Hua Feng. Topics for the Course included various aspects of spinal dysraphism and pediatric brain tumors. More than 100 Western Chinese neurosurgeons participated in the course which was the first of its kind in this part of China.

ISPN Faculty members contributing to the course were Wan Tew Seow, Singapore, Gianpiero Tamburrini, Italy, Kenichi Nishiyama, Japan, Jose Hinojosa, Spain, Tadanori Tomita Tai Tong Wong, Taiwan

5. Two more ISPN courses will be held in 2015: in Kochi, India, held jointly with the Indian Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery and in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia together with the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan Arab Chapter for Pediatric Neurosurgery.

The Indian Course will be held from 19-20 November and the Saudi Arabian Course from 23-24 November 2015.

6. A joint neurooncology course with SIOP meeting will be held in CapeTown, South-Africa (Oct 2015) and will be supported by ISPN in association with the ISPN liaison Committee (Dr G Solanki and Dr A Figaji).

Wan Tew and Federico wished to thank the faculty members of the various ISPN courses for giving their time to participate in these ISPN courses , the previous co-chair, Dr Gianpiero Tamburrini as well as the local organisers for their help in making these courses a great success.

**For 2016, The Education Committee has already received requests from China, Myanmar, Thailand, Chile (proposed already in 2015), and India (Bangalore) to run ISPN courses.**

**Communication**  
**(representing also Douglas Cochrane)**

**Wolfgang Wagner**

Wolfgang briefly exposed the 5 main points plan that was developed during the past year by Douglas Cochrane and himself for the website development, namely to provide the site with

1. effective communication tools ; the message can contain links, images and can allow the user to be directed to services (eg registration, or hotel, 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. Record the meetings presentations and use them to build a library for the Society. Similarly these presentations and those given at ISPN education meetings should be available and 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

The process started with a thorough and repeated request of help to the Moonbrand Company who developed the actual website. On March 1<sup>st</sup> after a series of attempts, starting in December 2014, Richard Moon sent a letter of intents resuming the actual state of the website and their perspective both for the website and the Guide. Answers and new contacts were asked without success. On these grounds, based also on the thoughtful perplexities expressed by Rick Abbott as Scientific Chair for the Guide about a change of its electronic management it was asked and unanimously approved by the Executive Board to look for a new Company to take care of the website improvement and maintainance, except the Guide, that will continue under the same rules as for the past years, namely under the Scientific Direction of Rick Abbott with the technical support of Moonbrand.

As an unanimous choice as well it was asked to Kenes a contract preliminary proposal that was approved by the Executive Board. Unfortunately, due to lack of entrance permissions (passwords) to access the technical part of the website, the Audit process that need to precede the website improvement and redevelopment could be only done in a very limited way by Kenes. A renewed proposal was hence sent based on the available informations and was shortly presented by Louise Gorringe. .

- **Rick Abbott highlighted that, in spite of being the time to invest in the site we should first ask ourselves what do we want the website to do. The actual website was built in an architecture which is now 7 years dated but in spite of this it has a strong and professional structure that still can represent a trustful base for updates. Young people, within the society committed to this purpose will be needed.**

- **After discussion and some concerns about the fact that 4 hrs per week (time proposed in the contract by Kenes) could represent too much time, it was agreed to continue with the original proposal, which namely will be the handover of website updates and email communications to Kenes. A formal updated contract whose background will be the one proposed by Kenes in April 2015 will be sent to the executive board and the contract will be valid for one year. The time spent will be monitored and reviewed at next Executive Board.**
- **Steps that will be required are:**
  - **Draft an addendum between ISPN and Kenes for work**
  - **Establish contact with Moonbrand (with assistance of Rick Abbott)**
  - **Undergo training on CMS/receive any relevant documentation**
  - **Agree on the procedures to receive updates and implementation**
  - **Initiate project for further web development i.e. conversations about what is needed**
- **Immediate Priorities will be:**
  - **Update all new EB members**
  - **Better communicate Scholarships – currently not communicated on website well**
  - **Give a support to LMIC countries membership information**

## **Ways & Means**

## **Conor Mallucci**

Conor Mallucci resumed his activity along the past year. Concerning the ISPN annual meeting awards he specified that 11 applications were received and 7 Low and Middle Income Countries Members were awarded; their identity and affiliation was presented to the Executive Board.

Conor than presented the three new awards that have been electronically approved along the past year and that will become active from 2016, namely:

1. The ISPN Annual Meeting Scientific Excellence Awards; these will be:
  - Prize and financial award for best abstracts

- To be awarded to a number of the top scoring abstracts by the scientific committee to junior neurosurgeons and trainees
- For postgraduate students (including residents or fellows) or undergraduate students from any country who have submitted an abstract of exceptional scientific quality
- These prizes should be awarded by the scientific committee scoring the abstracts for each annual meeting
- Three awards will be recognized for platform presentations (\$2000) and two for posters presentations (\$1500).
- Application for Scholarship submitted before abstract closing date.
- Scientific Committee to evaluate all abstracts and notify W&M Chair who will initiate selection process for Scholarships
- Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship application within one month of the final decision of the Scientific Committee.
- In order to confirm acceptance of the Scholarships, recipients will be expected to register for the Annual Meeting and pay the Resident registration fee, *whether a resident or not*. Failure to register within one month of notification of an award will result in cancellation of the Scholarship offer.
- Funds will be distributed AFTER the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Failure to attend the meeting will result in cancellation of the Scholarship

**2a. Visiting fellowships for training in an ISPN recognized unit**

- These will be maximum 5 per year
- Funding is to support a trainee to spend a period of time (6 weeks to 3 months) in an internationally recognized unit (or unit/surgeon) to acquire unique experience/surgical technique)
- The duration of the visiting fellowship would be determined and confirmed in advance with the hosting institution but suggested to be between 6 weeks to 3 months
- The visiting fellowship would otherwise NOT be a salaried fellowship that already exists and is not already part of the training program of that unit
- The total sum/support will be a maximum of 5000 USD. These awards could be ratified once a year by the ways and means committee and then at each ISPN executive board meeting if required in advance of the award after appraisal of all applications

**2b. Visiting fellowships for training in a developing Country's Unit**

- Funding to be sought by trainees/fellows and to support a trainee from a developed Country to spend a period of time in a recognized developing Country's unit
- The objective of these visits would be to provide education about the management of paediatric neurosurgery conditions not usually seen in developed Countries.

- The visiting fellowship would otherwise NOT be a salaried fellowship that already exists and is not already part of the training program of that unit
- Proposal – up to 5 fellowships per year \$2000

As points of discussion Conor pointed out the need to:

- **Interact with the Scientific Committee to set up timelines to sign off excellence awards.**
- **To better promote travelling fellowships together with the Communication Committee.**
- **To set up a registry of suitable units for travelling fellowships 2a and 2b with contact details. This last process should start sending a message to all the members by the Communication Committee in order to extend the information about these fellowship ; a similar work will be needed to be done on the information which is present on the website.**

Finally Conor wished to thank

- Graham Fieggen for his detailed 2014 handover report
- Francisco Salomao, for his help in processing applications arrivd to him through the website
- Chandrashekhar Deopujari and Gianpiero Tamburrini for their tireless support and work on the new fellowships programme.

## Scientific

## G. Fieggen

Graham resumed the activity of the Scientific Committee along the past year and updated the information on the Izmir meeting:

Among 351 abstracts received by the Scientific Committee for evaluation 321 were distributed in the Scientific programme of the meeting as follows:

- 88 for platform presentation
- 94 for flash presentation
- 139 for poster presentation

41 Countries were represented. Nineteen were the invited speakers to give the state-of-the art updates on highly relevant topics.

- The first day of the meeting was devoted entirely to neuro-oncology, starting with an update on posterior fossa tumours featuring Rick Boop, Peter Dirks, Nobuto Morota, Memet Ozek and Tad Tomita, chaired by Michel Zerah and Paul Steinbok, closing with a wrap-up session in partnership with SIOP.
- Tuesday was focused on hydrocephalus and endoscopy with a highlight being the first presentation of data from the International Infant Hydrocephalus Study.



- Spine, epilepsy, trauma and vascular were the focus of Wednesday with a session on the craniovertebral junction featuring Dachling Pang, Dominic Thompson and Doug Brockmeyer and later in the day challenges in education with input from Rick Abbott, Saffet Mutluer and Ganesalingham Narenthiran.
- Thursday started with an expert overview of the management of hydatid disease by Mehmet Selcuki and Ahmet Alanay and continued with the management of craniofacial disorders.

**Graham then proposed the timeline for 2016 as follows:**

<b>Abstracts submission Deadline:</b>	<b>Monday 4th April</b>
<b>Eventually Extended Deadline:</b>	<b>Monday 18th April</b>
<b>Reviewing Process:</b>	<b>22nd April – 2nd May</b>
<b>Tentative Scientific Program:</b>	<b>4th May – 15th May</b>
<b>Acceptance Letters:</b>	<b>21st May</b>
<b>Registration Deadline:</b>	<b>3rd June</b>

**Main topics for 2016 will be:**

**Neuro-oncology/ Molecular biology**  
**Developmental neurobiology**  
**Hydrocephalus**  
**Imaging**  
 Ethics

It is in the plans to have a pre-meeting course, one of the possible proposals being to dedicate this pre-congress course to complications.

**Liaison**

**Guirish Solanki**

Guirish updated the Executive Board on the relationships that were established and explored concerning neurosurgical and affiliated to neurosurgery Societies along the past year.

A main role has been represented by the collaboration established with the SIOP which started in 2012 and progressively improved along the last three years, thanks to the support of the executive board and other committees (Scientific & Education). This collaboration has led to the following joint scientific activities along the past year:

- **ISPN Rio de Janeiro**

- Pre-congress neuro-oncology course
- **SIOP-BTG Heidelberg meeting June 2015**
  - Pre-meeting Workshop (ESPN, SIOP-BTG, COG)
  - European level Collaboration with neurosurgery
- **ISPN Izmir**
  - Combined SIOP-e BTG / ISPN NEURO-ONCOLOGY session
- **SIOP Cape Town October 2015**
  - SIOP started a Neuro-Oncology Symposium
    - Named ISPN Neuro-oncology Symposium
    - Combined SIOP, WFNS, ISPN, SIOP-E BTG, SA oncology society collaboration
    - Funding support from SIOP, SIOP-E BTG Training & Education Group, ISPN, SA Local organisers, Industry
    - 3 workshops (Approach to Brainstem Tumours, Interhemispheric approaches to midline tumours, Endoscopic resection of tumours)

Activities proposed for 2016:

- **ISPNO – Liverpool, June 2016**
  - Agreed neurosurgery pre-congress course- Conor Malluci
  - Agreed invitation to president ISPN to be keynote speaker
  - Separate neurosurgery scientific session
- **SIOP 2016 – October 19th – 22nd, Dublin Ireland**
  - Difficult as this year due to the close proximity of the two meetings (ISPN/SIOP)
- **ISPN Kobe – 23-27th October 2016**
  - Standing invitation for neuro-oncology collaboration and participation
  - Combined course ?

## **Ethics & Morals**

**Arthur Di Patri**

Arthur reported his interest in the proposal of LMIC membership and his willingness to explore more possibilities to involve people from very peripheral parts of the world in which he points out that even the minimal fee approved by the Executive Board could represent a very high expense to afford.

## **Nominating**

**G. McComb**

Gordon McComb read the list of the Executive Board Members selected by the Nominating Committee for 2016:

President	Graciela Zuccaro (Argentina)
President-elect	William Harkness (UK)
Secretary	Gianpiero Tamburrini (Italy)
Treasurer	John Kestle (USA)
Annual meeting Chair	Mami Yamasaki (Japan)

### **Committee Chairmen**

Audit	Francisco Salomao (Brazil)
Education	Wan Tew Seow (Singapore)
Education Co-Chair	Federico Di Rocco (France)
Ethics and Morals	Arthur Di Patri (USA)
Liaison	Guirish Solanki (UK)
Membership	Reizo Shirane (Japan)
Nominating	Chandrashekhar Deopujari (India)
Communication	Wolfgang Wagner (Germany)
Communication Co-Chair	Adrian Caceres (Costa Rica)
Scientific	Graham Fieggen (South Africa)
Scientific Co-Chair	Tony Figaji (South Africa)
Ways and Means	Conor Mallucci (UK)
Historian	Tadanori Tomita (USA)
Child's Nervous system	Concezio Di Rocco (Germany)
The Guide	Rick Abbott (USA)

Wolfgang Wagner was proposed as further candidate for President Elect by C. Di Rocco. Following a vote by eligible EB members William Harkness was confirmed as the President Elect of the Society.

### **Child's Nervous System**

### **Concezio Di Rocco**

Concezio Di Rocco detailed the Journal activity along the past year; there has been a 17% increase in the number of submissions in 2015, compared with 2014; the rejection rate has been around 40%. A strength point has been the low mean number of days going from submission to first decision, this being 37 days. 264 papers have been published in the period from January to beginning of October, the perspective being of around 320 papers published by the end of the year. The IF has remained stable in 2014 compared with 2013 (IF=1.114), as well as the rank among both Pediatric journals (81/119), Surgery journals (129/198) and Clinical Neuroscience journals (161/192). The percentage of cited articles is high (54%), confirming the efforts of all the Editorial Board Members to make the selection quite strict.

Further improvement will come from the new campaign that will be done with Springer and will include:

- Refinement of article classification terms
- Limits concerning the number of words, figures, tables, references for each article type
- Number of author names limited to 7
- Case reports allowed only for unusual or rare clinical experiences
- Otherwise case reports in the format of Letter to the Editors (during peer-review) not influencing the Impact Factor
- Introduction of ethical statements

**The policy to increase visibility of the journal will also include:**

- About 2500 ToC alerts forwarded immediately after each issue publication
- Top-10 (2014-2015) most downloaded papers displayed in the journal homepage (Springer.com)
- In October there will be a temporary-free trial access (1-2 months) to most discussed papers in social media
- Along the upcoming year mailing campaigns and social media campaign will be started, designed to promote the journal publications, free access papers and highly discussed papers

**Future meeting sites (2019-2020)**

**Graciela Zuccaro**

Six bids were received, namely:

- 1- COPENHAGEN – DENMARK (Dr. Marianne Juhler)
- 2- MIAMI – USA (Dr. Danjiv Bhatia)
- 3- BRISBANE – AUSTRALIA (Dr. Robert Campbell)
4. SHANGAI – CHINA (Dr. Jie Ma)
5. SINGAPUR (Dr. Wan Tew Seow)
6. BIRMINGHAM – UK (Dr Guirish Solanki)

Graciela pointed out that all the bids were very accurate and the decision was in fact very difficult.

At the end the two favoured bids she proposed to the Executive Board were Singapore for 2019 and Birmingham for 2020.

In agreement among them Wan Tew Seow and Guirish Solanki exchanged their designation, so that the final approval by the Executive Board is that Birmingham will be the ISPN Congress site for 2019 and Singapore will be the Venue for 2020.

**The status of the Guide**

**Rick Abbott**

Rick Abbott exposed the progress of the Guide along the immediate past year. At the time of the Izmir meeting 54 Chapters are completed and 6 are in final preparation for a total of around 1000 pages. USA is the Country with the highest number and rate of users, followed by UK. There is a steady growth of number of people interested in the Guide, more than 80% of readers during 2015 being new users. Plans are active to both increase the depth of information and broaden the usage of the Manual.

**Nomination of two members for the Nomination Sub-committee by the floor.**

After a votation by all eligible members , the two elected members are:

- 1) Yasuo Yamanouchi (Japan)
- 2) Cagatay Onal (Turkey)