

# ISPGR Members' meeting

Bologna, June 23, 2009, 13:00 – 15:00

Minutes submitted by Marjorie Woollacott, Ph.D., ISPGR Secretary

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## Agenda:

1. Opening by the President – Jim Frank
  - a. Jim introduced the members of the current Board and officers of the ISPGR
  
2. Minutes of the previous member's meeting in Vermont – written by Marjorie Woollacott
  - a. It was moved and seconded (by Horak, Brauer) that the minutes be accepted. A majority of members voted in favor of acceptance.
3. Exchange of Presidency – Bas Bloem
  - a. Bas Bloem thanked Jim for the last 2 years of his contributions in his role as president.
4. Treasurer's report – Sharon Henry
  - a. Sharon Henry noted that she had received information from Bas Bloem, the previous treasurer, in December, 2006 that the balance in the ISPGR account was 15,396 Euros.
  - b. ISPGR 2007: Net income from the meeting was \$30,169,49 (Income 264,418.22; Expenses 234,248.73)
  - c. 15,396 Euros was lent to Italy for organizing of this meeting in 2009. Approx income: 312,982 Euros ; expenses: 300,228 euros; thus, estimated final net income is 12,754 Euros. The exact amount of the net income will not be available until the meeting is over.
  - d. Membership fees: Sharon noted that we ask for membership fees early so we can do website changes and put deposit down on a conference venue; then members log in later to submit abstract and register for conference. We don't yet have the money to redesign website for 1 log-in, 1 stop shopping for the conference.
  - e. Bas B. thanked Sharon H. for making the finances much more transparent; He noted that this is important for becoming a Nonprofit organization.
5. Election of New board members
  - a. Bas asked the members to see the ballot at the bottom of the agenda they were given at the beginning of the Members' Meeting.
  - b. He said that we would be improving nominations and voting in the future – using the website and offering online voting. However, at the current meeting we will use the ballots provided. There will be a nomination period on the website (people can even nominate themselves for Board membership), and then a voting period will occur.
  - c. Student members: Bi-laws say student members need to be members for 4 yrs. We are thinking of changing bi-laws for 2 yr membership. We can then use online voting for students members in future.

- d. Board Members who are standing down are Jaak Duysens and Emily Keshner. Bas thanked them for their service.
  - e. New Board Member candidates on the ballot for the Americas are Mark Carpenter, Canada and Mark Redfern, USA.
  - f. New Board Member candidates for Europe / Asia / Australia are Brian Day, UK, Vivian Weerdesteyn, the Netherlands, Jorunn Helbostrad, Norway.
  - g. President elect will be Emily Keshner; Current bi-laws say that new president must have been past organizer of meeting or on Board. Emily Keshner was our sole candidate who offered to be on the ballot. In future, we would like to make these regulations less strict, so we have more possibilities for president.
6. Professionalizing our society
- a. Bas noted that we are thinking of linking our meetings with other societies in the future, such as the Movement Disorders Society and others. Bas suggested that in 4 yrs time, there is a week dedicated to posture, and the meetings of these societies are combined. If you know of any other societies and conferences that would be good to create a meeting with, let us know so we can write them and team up with them.
  - b. We leave organization of each of the International conferences to local people. This is a great amount of work and each meeting involves reinventing the wheel of how to organize a conference. We are considering liaising with a professional conference bureau to improve the quality of our meetings and efficiency in conference organization. Question from a member: Can we send ideas about what we need? Answer: we will have a form for evaluation of the website, suggestions on professionalizing the society, and also for evaluation of the current meeting.
7. He also would like to move the ISPGR from a “Conference Society” to a “Real Society” that interacts with each other beyond the conference period.
- a. He proposes website improvements – with new features includes Wikipedia, protocols, consumer reviews, etc. Also standardization of posturography and other techniques for experiments and clinical assessments.
  - b. Bas will write to the members every 2 months and will ask what should the ISPGR do to serve you better; how can we change website to draw you to use it more; e.g., including information on current techniques, having member photos on website; presentations on website. He will ask members by e-mail to tell ISPGR what we can do for them.
8. Statistics on and evaluation of the present meeting
- a. Lorenzo Chiari said that he will work with Bas B. to create an evaluation form for the meeting that will be available on the website.
  - b. ISPGR Bologna, statistics: 498 abstracts were submitted; 487 were accepted, 7 rejected, 4 were withdrawn during review process: 11 total were removed. 35 fewer Abstracts were presented at conference due to economic and personal reasons on the part of those who submitted them. There were in total, 365 posters and 97 oral presentations. Each poster was out for 3 hours and for 1.5 hours with the presenter at the poster, and the other ½ of the time was reserved for the presenter to visit other posters. Oral presentations: we wanted to give you as much time as possible, and to have no more than 2 parallel tracks, so you could see more posters. We also had interesting yes-no debates.

- c. Breakdown of participation: 82 from Canada, 60 USA, 55 Italy, 37 France, 26 Japan, 26 Netherlands, 25 UK, 17 Australian, 16 Israel, 14 Belgium, 14 Switzerland, 13, Brazil, 12, Germany, 9 Norway, 4 Czech, 4 Korea, 4 Spain, etc .... 30 total countries were represented.
  - d. Number of exhibitors was very large. We are very happy for their support and participation, especially with the world wide economic crisis. We thank them for coming.
9. 2011, Japan:
- a. We are excited that the next conference will be in Japan in 2011. The meeting will be in Akita, Japan. It is very beautiful, with hot springs, and in the mountains. It is known for great food and hospitality.
10. Possible future meetings

For 2013, Sao Paulo, in Brazil has been suggested. However, other sites are possible and a decision has not yet been made. John Allum expressed concern about a conference in Brazil being too expensive for students. He would suggest that we consider talking to possible organizers in Boston or other closer places, that might be less expensive for students. He would suggest we put this question on the website and think further before making a decision.

- a. 2015: Jorunn Helbostad would be interested in hosting the conference in Norway. Spain is also a possibility.
11. Student awards – Emily Keshner
- a. Emily K. noted that we need to have a large number of members on the awards committee. Each evaluates 10 posters. She thanked each of the current committee members for helping to evaluate the posters. We will award 2 this year sponsored by Northern Digital. They are the Aftab Patla award in experimental and in clinical science. We will also have 3 honourable mentions, to help acknowledge the students and their work.
  - b. Bas stated that it might be nice to have a career award for postdocs in the future. There was consensus that this would be good.

12. Comment from the floor:

- a. Anne Shumway-Cook asked: who is eligible for President: could you clarify this? What are your criteria? Bas B answered: your point is well taken. We haven't carefully thought this through as it just came up in Board Meeting. We will put this on the website and then get comments before making a decision. Fay noted that one of the criteria will be that a person has come to many of the previous meetings. As the previous bi-laws restricted eligibility only to previous presidents, these people were often unavailable for running for President. Thus we need to broaden the criteria.

**13. Note added at the end of the meeting: After the ballots for new Board Members were counted, the 2 new members who were elected were: Mark Carpenter and Vivian Weerdesteyn.**