

# International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) 2001 Business Meeting Minutes

Queens Hotel Köln  
Cologne, Germany

16 June 2001  
13.00 – 14.00h

## Attendance:

Paul Eling (President)  
Sam Greenblatt (Past-President)  
Russell Johnson (Secretary)  
George York (Treasurer)  
Ed Fine (Member-at-Large)  
John Richardson (Member-at-Large)  
Geneviève Aubert  
Stan Finger  
Paul Foley  
Bob Frank  
George Joseph  
Axel Karenberg  
Peter Koehler  
Georg Kreutzberg  
Boleslav Lichterman  
J.B. Lyons  
Michael Rashotte  
Chris Smith  
Miki Takasuna  
Nick Wade  
Jerry Wasserman  
Daniel Weese  
Jeffrey Wollock  
Giorgio Zanchin  
Isabelle Banier (nonmember)  
Debra Fine (nonmember)  
Caroline Jagella (nonmember)  
Marjorie Lorch (nonmember)  
Ferdinand Peter Moog (nonmember)

1. Welcome (Paul Eling, President)

Call to order; changes in agenda.

## 2. 2000 Minutes (Paul Eling)

Motion was made to accept minutes from the 2000 annual business meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Treasurer's Report (George York)

George York reported on unaudited balance sheets from 2000 and 2001 (through 31 May). ISHN had 189 members in 2000; only 3 student members are on the balance sheet for 2001 because Swets has not yet submitted membership dues for 166 full members.

The income statement for 2000 shows a major expenditure for book reviews, representing an outlay for stationery and postage for book mailings by the book review editor, George Joseph. Stan Finger (co-editor of *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences* (JHN)) will ask Swets to cover book review costs in the future. George Joseph noted that most of initial cost in 2000 was for stationery and that publishers are now covering most mailing costs. The income statement for 2001 includes a substantial donation by Sam Greenblatt and his partners in Providence, Rhode Island, for meeting expenses last year.

In summary, ISHN's finances are stable. The society could pay for an entire annual meeting without sponsorship, but this would deplete the treasury.

Ed Fine said there is a mechanism, in the U.S., by which charitable donations can be made to the society by pharmaceutical companies. Sam Greenblatt amplified this, explaining that the ISHN is incorporated in the State of Rhode Island as a not-for-profit corporation, so donations by American citizens are tax-deductible. George York added that the ISHN is incorporated as a 501c(3) corporation, so it is allowed to collect up to \$25,000 per year without filing a tax return.

Sam asked whether Europeans could make contributions directly. George concluded that if a donation were substantial, we would make arrangements to accept it in whatever currency necessary.

Paul Eling noted that George would stay on as Treasurer until the end of the calendar year, then turn over the post to the new Treasurer. He also thanked George for his tireless work to keep the society in good financial order [applause].

## 4. Feedback on ISHN/ECHN Meeting, June 2000 (Axel Karenberg)

Paul Eling commended the new approach to holding poster sessions. Geneviève Aubert requested more time for discussion in poster sessions. Axel responded that 10-12 minutes were allocated to each poster this year. Sam recommended an hour afterwards, so people could go to individual posters. Axel explained that this would require canceling two platform papers per poster session.

Axel reported there were 45 submissions for this year's meeting. The Program Committee (Axel Karenberg, Paul Eling, Duane Haines, Sam Greenblatt, Geneviève Aubert) rejected 3 abstracts; 24 were assigned to platform sessions (8 per day) and 16 to poster presentations.

Attendance at the meeting was more than 80 (but not all at any one time), plus more than 20 accompanying persons.

Ed Fine noted that the banquet dinner was outstanding and complimented the selection of location and menu. Axel gave credit to his wife for these selections.

#### 5. Arrangements for ISHN 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Los Angeles (Russell Johnson, Secretary, for Duane Haines, President-elect)

Duane extended his regrets in absentia—he had to return to Jackson, Mississippi, in order to leave for another concert the following day.

Plans, in brief, for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting:

- June 1-5, 2002 in Los Angeles.
- Mixture of platform and poster sessions; some additional invited lectures, some of which will be by ISHN members
- Lectures will be open to the interested public.
- Venues will include UCLA and USC (University of Southern California)
- A presentation on Los Angeles included introductions to LAX, the “June gloom” weather phenomenon, and views of UCLA campus venues and sights
- Opening reception/exhibit at the UCLA Biomedical Library.
- The program will begin at UCLA, with a social program at the William Andrews Clark Library
- Monday, June 3 will be at USC, hosted by Larry Swanson, followed by a banquet (cocktails, banquet, Presidential lecture) back at UCLA Faculty Center)
- Tuesday will be at UCLA followed by the Getty Museum, where Larry Kruger will be a Getty Scholar; this program will be organized by ISHN in conjunction with the Getty; the evening will be free
- Wednesday will have a program and business meeting; a reception and “brain film” screening will conclude the conference

#### 6. Membership and Journal Fees (Paul Eling)

The journal is doing well; current procedures are being maintained, but there are possible changes in the future.

The Board realized that the Student membership fees had been \$25; this were reduced to \$20 to make it the same as the portion of dues the society receives from Full members. The current fee is \$95, of which \$75 pays for the journal and \$20 is to be returned by Swets.

## 7. Bylaws (Paul Eling)

The ISHN has an incorporation documents, and decisions are made by the Board and at business meetings, but it does not have a set of bylaws. The Board assigned a committee (Duane Haines, Russell Johnson, George York, Sam Greenblatt) to draw up bylaws for consideration.

## 8. Dissolution of Committees (Paul Eling)

Some committees have been inactive or their duties re-assigned. The Publication Committee was superceded by the journal editors, and is dissolved by the Board. The Board voted to eliminate the Archivist position, with the Secretary to assume these duties. Ed Fine took a particular interest in developing a photographic collection of the society and its meetings, and wondered whether there might be some compensation to offset designated members' film or developing costs.

## 9. Secretary's Report (Russell Johnson)

The first printed ISHN Membership Directory has been mailed or hand-delivered. Some additional copies will be sent to libraries to encourage subscriptions to the journal. The online version of the directory will be regularly updated as new and revised entries are received.

HISTNEUR-L, the history of neuroscience listserv, has 290 subscribers, of whom only 1/3 overlap with the ISHN membership. It received on average between one and two postings per day. Individuals are encouraged to post their announcements, questions, and other messages directly to the list instead of using the administrator as an intermediary.

The ISHN website licensed an easy to remember address since the last meeting: <http://www.ishn.org>. It includes programs, abstracts, and minutes from annual meetings. Membership applications are now online; they may be opened, printed, completed and returned.

## 10. Report of IBRO History of Neuroscience Committee (George Kreutzberg, Committee Chair)

IBRO (International Brain Research Organization) will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Congress in Prague, Czech Republic, 10-15 July 2003.

This year, the IBRO Executive Committee created an Ad Hoc Committee on Neuroscience History, which overlaps and parallels interests of the ISHN. George Kreutzberg read the committee's mission statement and outlined its objectives:

“This Committee was created for the study of past contributions to the understanding of brain function made by scientists from different parts of the world. In order to cover a broad scope of such contributions, the Committee will collaborate with researchers in the six IBRO Regions. The Committee hopes to build up a worldwide inventory and facilitate access to these important sources of information that otherwise may be lost. Initially, IBRO will promote studies on a few

select topics such as the evolution of specific concepts in the brain sciences. The Committee will work with IBRO and the affiliated organizations to identify subjects that are of general interest to the neuroscience community worldwide and help recognize unknown or 'forgotten' contributions from scientist in countries that have been transiently disconnected from the free exchange of ideas, or disadvantaged by geographical, economical or language barriers.”

For the Prague congress in 2003, IBRO welcomes the possibility of joining forces with ISHN; e.g., doing a symposium, or having a satellite meeting in Prague or another location in Europe. IBRO can offer publicity to more than 50,000 people worldwide.

In response, Paul Eling noted the Board discussed this invitation, and would like to make a collaborative connection of some sort to IBRO.

#### 11. Nominations and Elections (Paul Eling)

Paul Eling presented a nomination for President-elect from the Board of Directors: John Richardson (Brunel University, UK). Nominations were opened to the floor; no additional names put forth. A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect John Richardson as ISHN President-elect was passed.

Eling presented a nomination from the Board for Treasurer—with a term of office to begin with the next ISHN fiscal year, on 1 January 2002: Larry Kruger (UCLA, Los Angeles, California). Nominations were opened to the floor, with no additional names put forth. A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect Larry Kruger as Treasurer in 2002 was passed.

Eling noted the completion of Ed Fine's term as Member-at-Large, necessitating the election of a successor. He presented a nomination from the Board of Directors: George Joseph (Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut). Nominations were opened to the floor, with no additional names put forth. A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect George Joseph as Member-at-Large (3-year term) was passed.

Eling noted that John Richardson's selection as President-elect made his seat as Member-at-Large vacant. He presented a nomination from the Board of Directors: Geneviève Aubert. Nominations were opened to the floor, with no additional names put forth. A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect Genevieve Aubert as Member-at-Large was passed.

#### 12. Report on the *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences* (Stan Finger)

The journal is doing well, with some “hiccups”: some delays in getting the publication out on time, and proofreading problems due to Swets' changing printers. Arnout Jacobs from Swets assured the editorial board that things would go considerably more smoothly in the coming year.

Good news about the journal:

(1) *Number of articles submitted:* Two years ago, JHN had 25 full-length articles. Last year, there were more than 40. This year, the journal is on pace for more than 60. The percentage of articles accepted has been fairly constant: 55%. Those that are rejected outright are usually inappropriate for the journal (they have nothing to do with neuroscience, for example) or have been at such a level that even with considerable time and effort from the editors, the articles do not have potential. Other articles have been accepted after some help. The editors thanked members of the editorial board and the society for their good work with authors and their papers to bring articles up to standards for publication.

(2) *Backlog:* The backlog after the second issue in 2001 will be one year or more, at 8 full-length papers per issue. After discussions at the board meeting, the general consensus is to look into going from 3 issues per year to 4 issues per year. The publisher agreed that going from 3 to 4 issues is easier than changing the size or format of the journal. This change will carry a cost—but if the price is increased, it will be done gradually over 3 or 4 years instead of all at once.

(3) *Sponsorship:* Thanks to Peter Koehler, the journal has support from Glaxo Netherlands for at least one year, in the form of the purchase of 200 copies per issue (out of a publication run of 500-600) to be given to practitioners by the company. This is not a sponsorship—there is no mention of the arrangement in the journal, nor are there any editorial requirements. Glaxo is literally buying subscriptions and giving them away.

(4) *Indexing:* Several months ago, the journal began listing in Index Medicus/MEDLINE, which will make it more attractive to libraries and to potential authors of articles.

(5) *Editorial Board membership changes:* The board added one new member (Nick Wade) in 2000 and one (Bob Frank) in 2001.

The editors expressed pride in the quality of papers—both those coming in and at the meeting. They invited speakers to consider JHN as a venue for publication. Ed Fine concluded with a call for members to urge their libraries to subscribe to the journal.

### 13. Awards and Prizes Committee (Paul Eling)

The ISHN's first two prizes were awarded at the annual Banquet the previous evening. The board decided to make one small change in the committee's rules. The Lifetime Contribution Award was enacted to occur biannually; selection for this award may now occur each year, at the discretion of the Committee.

Axel Karenberg urged members to nominate candidates for next year's awards: Lifetime Contribution, Best Book, and Best [Student] Essay. George York inquired about the source of essays for the Best Essay Award, and whether the ISHN was publicizing the award. Ed Fine asked whether a medical resident could qualify for writing a "student" essay; Paul Eling answered in the affirmative.

#### 14. Other Business

Boleslav Lichterman made a request for ISHN support for a conference—with a historical section—on physical methods in neurology and neurosurgery, to be held in Yalta in 2002. Paul Eling stipulated that a sponsorship proposal and conference details should be submitted in writing to the President for the Board's consideration. Motion by George York: As a condition for approval of ISHN support for a meeting, the ISHN should insist that the President or his/her designee be included on the conference's Program Committee and be empowered to withdraw support if necessary. The motion passed 20-1.

Outgoing President Paul Eling thanked the Board and members of the society for making an easy and enjoyable year. He added special thanks to Axel Karenberg for organizing the annual meeting. He turned the presidency over to Duane Haines, wishing him the best of luck but expecting that with an active board and membership, things would go smoothly [applause]. He concluded by thanking the conference attendees—especially those in attendance for the first time—and looked forward to next year's annual meeting in Los Angeles.

#### 15. Meeting Adjourned at 14.00h

Minutes recorded by Russell Johnson, Secretary  
16 June 2001