

International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) 2003 Business Meeting Minutes

Cumberland Lodge
Windsor Great Park, England, UK

10 July 2003
11:55 am – 1:10 pm

Attendance:

John Richardson (President)
Ed Fine (President-Elect)
Duane Haines (Past President)
Russell Johnson (Secretary)
Geneviève Aubert (Member-at-Large)
Stan Finger (JHN Co-Editor)
Peter Koehler (JHN Co-Editor)

Christian Baumann
Isabelle Barriere
Nai-Shin Chu
Moshe Feinsod
Christopher Gardner-Thorpe
Sherry Ginn
Sam Greenblatt
Bernd Holdorff
Axel Karenberg
Georg W. Kreutzberg
Boleslav Lichterman
Marjorie Lorch
Lorenzo Lorusso
J.B. Lyons
Malcolm Macmillan
Ulf Norsell
Michael Patterson
Gül A. Russell
C.U.M. Smith
Frank Stahnisch
Laurie Swan
Nick Wade
George York

1. Welcome (John Richardson, President)

John called the meeting to order and thanked members for attending.

2. Minutes of 2002 Business Meeting

Minutes to the 2002 Board meeting were inadvertently circulated at the start of the Business meeting. Correct minutes for the 2002 annual business meeting will be circulated in the afternoon.

3. Report on 2002 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles (Duane Haines, Past President)

The 7th annual meeting of the ISHN was held June 1-5, 2002 on the UCLA campus in Los Angeles. The meeting, attended by members from 12 countries, had 45 platform presentations, 8 posters, and invited lectures by Eran Zaidel on Shepherd Ivory Franz, Joe Bogen on the “double brain,” Ted Jones on the thalamus from Galen to Willis, and Larry Swanson on translating Cajal. The Louise Darling Biomedical Library hosted the opening reception; Larry Kruger organized a program at the Getty on photography and cinematography in neuroscience history; and Stan Finger gave an invited lecture preceding a concert by glass armonica player William Wilde Zeitler. Duane thanked everyone who participated and attended for a very successful and enjoyable meeting.

4. Treasurer’s Report (Russell Johnson for Larry Kruger)

Larry Kruger sent his regrets at being unable to attend but forwarded notes for a report.

For the 2002 meeting, the final income in excess of expenses was \$2,096. In June 2003, the ISHN bank balance is \$21,500.63 after having paid for book reviews (mailing books to reviewers) and expenses for the last meeting and having received from Swets (2/19/2003) registration fees of \$2,670 for 178 members in 2002 (@ \$15 per membership). Pending expenses include travel grants for the 2003 meeting (\$1000) and meeting expenses in excess of registration fees income. Anticipated income still due from Swets is \$1,480 for 148 members in the current year 2003 (@ \$10 per membership).

Larry Kruger forwarded a request to retire as Treasurer at the end of the 2003 calendar year, which necessitates holding an election at this meeting for a successor for a term of three years. John thanked him on behalf of the society for his service.

5. Secretary’s Report (Russell Johnson)

ISHN membership in 2002 was 178 Full members and 2 Student members by year’s end. He encouraged members to urge their students to join the society, which charges only \$10 for a

student membership. ISHN membership in 2003 (as of June) was 148 Full members. Russell was unable to report on how many of these members were continuing, how many were new, etc., because Martin Scrivener, the contact with Swets, has not responded to inquiries and forwarded Turpin's database of subscriptions/memberships. This continues to be a frustration and prevents follow-up and pursuit of lapsed members, as well as the welcoming of new members. He apologized to members who experienced problems with their renewals and, with the journal editors, vowed to redouble efforts to get accountability from the publisher.

The HISTNEUR-L listserv averages between one and two postings a day to a subscriber base from thirty different countries.

The ISHN website (<http://www.ishn.org>) was out of commission for more than a month in the Spring because the server housing it was re-purposed to contain only curricular material, but not all other users had been informed of this change ahead of time. The website has been reconstructed and now is hosted on the UCLA Brain Research Institute's new server and will be updated after the annual meeting.

6. President's Report: Report on 2003 Annual Meeting at Cumberland Lodge (John Richardson, President)

The current annual meeting's Program Committee reviewed 46 submitted abstracts with simple majority voting. Of the 46 proposals, 34 were accepted as platform papers (25 minutes apiece) and 9 as posters; 3 abstracts were rejected as outside the scope of the neurosciences or their history, and 6 abstracts were withdrawn by their authors (1 of these was withdrawn because the author found that being assigned to a poster session was unacceptable).

Attempts to get external funding met with some success. The British Academy provided funding to cover the accommodations and travel expenses of the 4 invited speakers. John's home institution, Brunel University, gave a large amount of support—in addition to some funding to the society, Brunel donated the use of audiovisual equipment which was not rented from the Lodge as well as the overtime salary for the very capable audiovisual technician, Neil Newland.

7. *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences (JHN)* (Stan Finger)

Stan reported that the academic part of JHN is doing well—in fact, better than it has ever done. Of 43 submitted papers (not including book reviews), 11 or 12 are short commentaries. About 75% of the papers have been accepted after one or two revisions. The number and quality of papers is being submitted and published is high. There was a strongly positive reaction to the autobiographical papers in the last issue, so recipients of Lifetime Contribution Awards are being asked to submit autobiographical pieces with bibliographies.

There are still problems with Swets. The publisher is not very efficient and sometimes is silly in its policies (there is now a fee every time ISHN gets a list of members/subscribers from them). The Board has explored alternatives but the fact of the matter is Swets owns the journal, which

imposes limits on what can be done. Quality control is getting better—the recent issue of the journal was late because the publisher caught a printing quality problem before the journal was distributed and had the issue re-done. Nevertheless, it is inexcusable to send multiple, incorrect subscription/membership invoices, so the editors and Board continue to complain to Swets and ask them to get things under control.

Comments from the floor included the importance of pointing out to Swets all that members of the society are doing to improve the journal and to promote it. It must be made clear to the publisher what needs to be done for the journal, then consider options such as trying to take it to get it released and sold to another publisher

8. Awards and Prizes Committee (Axel Karenberg)

Axel clarified that he chairs the Lifetime Contribution Awards, Paul Eling the Outstanding Article Award, and George Joseph the Outstanding Book Award. He pointed out that it is the duty of the ISHN membership to nominate candidates for the awards and he encouraged members to help the committee identify worthy recipients. The Book Award is given on an annual basis, the Lifetime Contribution Award is at the discretion of the committee, and 2004 will see the return of the Outstanding Student Essay Award.

Geneviève proposed creating a prize to recognize the best poster or paper by a student or younger member at the annual meeting, as a way of further encouraging high quality presentations. General discussion considered the definition of “student” (including postdoctoral trainees, interns, and residents) and “younger member” (within 5 years of having received a terminal degree) and perhaps including independent scholars. **A motion, to charge the Program Committee to define the terms of and implement an award to recognize the best paper or poster presentation by a student trainee or early career scholar at the annual meeting, was passed by acclamation.**

9. Education Committee (Sam Greenblatt)

Sam proposed to the Board to disestablish the committee because there has not been any call for its services in the past year, but was dissuaded from this and encouraged to keep it another year. The committee will engage in publicity through the website and HISTNEUR-I listserv and announce its willingness to help anyone who is engaged in educational efforts in the history of the neurosciences.

Sam reported that Harry (Whit) Whitaker forwarded a proposal to create an online distance-education Masters program in history of the neurosciences he is trying to set up at Northern Michigan University. Following discussion, the ISHN Board asked Sam to discuss this further with Whit to clarify questions such as: what does “sponsorship” by the ISHN imply, and what does he think the society can do for this effort? Russell reminded Sam that the HISTNEUR-L listserv is available if Whit would like public comment and discussion about his proposal.

Moshe Feinsod pointed out the potential value of the ISHN as a resource for student education and the importance of alerting students about the existence and activities of the society. He described a well-publicized symposium he organized in Israel in 2001 with Sam Greenblatt as a speaker (they expected a dozen people and ended up with 80) and suggested that other members organize symposia at their universities in which they bring in speakers to educate students and seduce them to history of the neurosciences. Malcolm Macmillan observed that he had considered doing something like that but the interest and resources in Australia are not great; he asked Moshe to put on the listserv some advice about how he accomplished what he did—about the groundwork he laid and how he transformed the expectations of 12 people into 80.

10. Nominations and Elections

John explained that each year the society's Business Meeting selects a President-elect and other officers as needed. The Board makes one or more nominations and entertains nominations from the floor. In each case it should be known that the person who is nominated wishes to stand for election.

For the position of President-elect (to serve as President in 2004-2005), John presented the Board's nomination of Malcolm Macmillan. Nominations were opened to the floor; no additional names put forth. **A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect Malcolm Macmillan as ISHN President-elect was passed.**

For the position of Treasurer (3-year term, renewable, with a term of office to begin with the next ISHN fiscal year, on 1 January 2005), John presented the Board's nomination of George Joseph. Nominations were opened to the floor; no additional names were put forth. **A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect George Joseph as Treasurer in 2005 was passed.**

For the position of Secretary (3-year term, renewable), John presented the Board's nomination of Russell Johnson. Nominations were opened to the floor; no additional names were put forth. **A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect Russell Johnson to a second term as Secretary was passed.**

Eling noted that George Joseph's selection as Treasurer made his seat as Member-at-Large (3-year term) vacant. Russell explained that Members at Large—who participate in email-based discussions and decisions throughout the year and attends and votes at the ISHN Board meeting at the annual meeting—may not be from the same continent, so nominees may not reside in Europe. John presented the Board's nomination of Joel Villensky (Indiana University, Fort Wayne) and Stan Finger described his background. Russell nominated and described Isabelle Barriere (Johns Hopkins University). Geneviève Aubert nominated and described Nai-Shin Chu (Chang Gung Medical College and Memorial Hospital, Taipei). No additional names were put forth. **A count of paper ballots determined that Nai-Shin Chu was elected as Member at Large for the 2004-2007 term.**

John announced Paul Eling stepped down as chair of the Outstanding Article and Student Essay Awards and asked members for expressions of interest. Other members of that committee are

John Sutton (Australia) and Régis Olry (Canada). Axel Karenberg is joined on the Outstanding Contribution Award committee by Ed Fine (USA) and George York (USA). George Joseph chairs the Outstanding Book Award committee. Stan Finger recommended **Marjorie Lorch** (UK).

11. Arrangements for 10th Annual Meeting in Montreal, 2004 (Ed Fine, President-Elect)

Ed Fine circulated a 1-page summary of the proposed 2004 meeting and presented highlights. He described the preliminary discussions between Henri Cohen (UQAM) and Peter Snyder (Pfizer/University of Connecticut, Groton) with George Joseph and him in August 2002 about holding a joint meeting with TENNET (Theoretical and Experimental Neuropsychology) at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM) in June 2004.

Features and highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday (June 24) and Friday (June 25): TENNET meets.

Saturday (June 26): a shared day with TENNET, including an afternoon joint symposium on cognitive aspects of Multiple Sclerosis—a lecture by Jock Murray and 2 other papers; wine and cheese reception for the combined societies.

Sunday (June 27): papers, posters; St. Lawrence River and Harbor dinner cruise..

Monday (June 28): papers, posters; visit to the Montreal Neurological Institute and lecture on epilepsy by Bill Feindel in the afternoon; banquet for 100 at MNI or at the hotel, depending on catering.

Tuesday (June 29): papers; late afternoon business meeting.

TENNET has a charge account with both Canadian and US funds, which is an advantage for handling registration fees. Montreal is served by two airports with rapid connections to downtown hotels. The weather is seldom very hot during the summer, so a pleasant time is anticipated. Ed encouraged members to consider staying in the city a couple of days following the meeting to enjoy the international Montreal Jazz Festival.

In response to a question from Isabelle Barriere, Ed explained that both the TENNET and ISHN meetings would use English as the official language. He concluded by noting that he was recruiting members to comprise the Program Committee and welcoming suggestions and queries from the membership.

12. Nominating Committee and Elections

John reported that the Board reviewed the process by which nominations are put forward to the society and endorsed a proposal to call for nominations from the entire membership six weeks before each annual meeting; nominations will also be accepted at the annual meeting itself, of course. Russell Johnson pointed out that this follows up on a point in “Other Business” in the 2002 Business Meeting, in which it was decided to form a Nominating Committee consisting of the Past President and two other members; further discussion of the mechanics of the committee was tabled at last year’s meeting. He explained that the ISHN holds elections at the annual

meeting, where the assembled members form a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and voting.

After some deliberation at its meeting, the Board decided to open discussion about the ballot process and revisit the question of holding elections where the entire membership of the society votes vs. holding elections at annual meetings where those who are present are the ones who cast ballots. John asked Duane Haines and Stan Finger to represent the opposing viewpoints and provide brief summary arguments. Both viewpoints called for the Nominating Committee to gather names of candidates and distribute them before the annual meeting. Gül Russell suggested adding short biographies for the nominees, as well, to acquaint members who are not familiar.

Duane presented the option of conducting the vote by mail in order to involve and be more inclusive of society members, including those who have never been able to attend a meeting. Ballots would be distributed to all member and returned by mail. Results would be announced at the annual meeting. He argued that this procedure is the one which is followed by more mature societies and the ISHN, at nine years of age, has matured.

Stan Finger presented the option of continuing to conduct the vote at the annual meeting, but earlier in the meeting in order to accommodate members who arrive late or leave early. He noted that at this time the most involved people are those who attend the meetings, and expressed the concern that a mail ballot could elect a candidate who has never been to a meeting or does not know how to go about organizing an annual meeting. There was discussion about how democratic the process is. George York summarized discussion by envisioning the Nominating Committee as a search committee which puts together a slate of several candidates based on rules that outline qualifications for open positions.

In response to Marjorie Lorch's query about the role the President plays, John explained that the President resolves opinions and makes decisions in concert with the Board throughout the year. Sam emphasized this point and added that the President, Treasurer, and Secretary—depending on what the question is—conduct, on behalf of the society, business that cannot until the annual meeting. In addition—and primarily—the President organizes and hosts the annual meeting.

John reminded the meeting that the issue to be resolved was not how to bring a list of candidates forward, but rather what, but rather the timing of balloting on the list of candidates. The question was called whether to conduct balloting at the business meeting or to conduct it by mail before the annual meeting. **By a vote of 15 to 11 it was decided to continue to conduct election balloting by members present at the annual Business Meeting.**

13. Other Business

Isabelle Barriere, a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University, thanked the society for a travel award that helped her to attend the meeting.

Axel Karenberg noted that Lifetime Contribution Award recipients are the only honorees who receive medallions from the society. He proposed that *all* recipients of awards receive medallions (which cost approximately €40.- each).

Malcolm Macmillan announced that Giorgio Zanchin and colleagues offered to host the 2005 meeting in Padua, Italy. He thanked them for this offer and for taking on such a responsibility, given that most members would probably find it difficult to pay the expense of going to a meeting “down under” in Australia.

John Richardson welcomed Ed Fine as the new ISHN President.

14. Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Minutes recorded by Russell Johnson, Secretary
10 July 2003