

International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) 2004 ISHN Business Meeting Minutes

University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM)

29 June 2004

3:00-4:15pm

- 1. Welcome:** President Ed Fine called the meeting to order and thanked members for attending.
- 2. Minutes of 2003 Business Meeting** were approved.
- 3. Report on 2003 Annual Meeting at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, UK**

Past-President John Richardson sent apologies for his absence. Ed thanked everyone who participated and attended for a very successful and enjoyable meeting, and entered the meeting report from 2003 into the minutes:

The 2003 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as posters; 3 abstracts were rejected as outside the scope of the neurosciences or their history, and 6 abstracts were withdrawn by their authors (1 of these was withdrawn because the author found that being assigned to a poster session was unacceptable).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.

4. Report on 2004 Annual Meeting

A new feature of the annual meeting preparations was a "Meeting-at-a-Glance", which met with uniform appreciation. Gül Russell's movie evening was very well attended and may become a regular feature of the meeting. One departure from other meetings was the addition of a day-long symposium, this one on the "Long 18th Century"; another was an increased emphasis on clinical-themed symposia (Epilepsy; Multiple Sclerosis).

Comments (and responses by Ed) during a discussion of the organization of the meeting included: The meeting was very packed (most presenters requested platform sessions; the TENNET meeting showed how more posters can be accommodated—including a quieter display space rather than a hallway—without slighting the participation of those presenters). Presentations tended to run long; speakers need to be kept on schedule. With the consent of the speakers, the Program Committee might assign some shorter paper timeslots as well. The

meeting also needs to have some “down time” one afternoon, during which attendees can explore the host city.

5. Secretary’s Report (Russell Johnson)

Members who are not subscribed to the HISTNEUR-L listserv should subscribe; it is the society’s primary means of communicating with members because of ease and immediacy as well as the expense of surface- and air-mailing printed communication; it also is available as a forum for members to post announcements, questions, and discussion. Membership directory forms are available for new members to add their entries and for continuing members to update their data, particularly historical research in progress and recent accomplishments.

Membership is down this year to 123 due to problems, yet again, with the distributor of the journal and membership renewal invoices. 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. Bob Frank suggested setting up, through the society itself, a pre-paid multi-year membership from which the society then pays yearly installments to the publisher for the journal. In response to Ed’s request to advertise the society through other organizations to which members belong, Bijal Mehta noted that he just set up the Neurology Special Interest Group in the American Medical Students Association, and will provide the link to its website and email of its list.

6. Treasurer’s Report (George Joseph)

George succeeded Larry Swanson on 1 January 2004 and received a transfer of just over US\$20,000, the society’s treasury. Income since then includes \$1230 for membership dues and \$2500 from sponsors of the annual meeting. Expenses in preparation for the meeting left a balance of approximately \$21,000; remaining expenses will be known in full when the books for the joint meeting are reviewed with TENNET and UQAM. The inaugural Silent Auction raised approximately \$1,000 for annual meeting student travel grants. At its meeting this week, the ISHN Board gave the Treasurer two charges: investigate using a PayPal account to accept online credit card payments of annual meeting registration and other fees from members; and chair a Finance Committee which will identify and solicit sources of financial support for the society, in particular the annual meeting.

This year’s auction included many books George accumulated as Book Review Editor of the journal. Subsequent auctions will not have this significant source of material, so members should consider donating more books. Sam moved for a show of thanks for George for his work, which was met with applause.

7. Nominations and Elections

Ed 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 2005-2006), candidates may reside in any continent other than Australia. Ed presented the Board's nomination of Moshe Feinsod (The Technion Institute, Haifa, Israel). Nominations were opened to the floor; no additional names were put forth. **A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect Moshe Feinsod as ISHN President-elect was passed.**

For the position of Member at Large (3-year term) succeeding Geneviève Aubert, candidates may reside in any continent other than that of the other, continuing Member at Large Nai-Shin Chu (Taiwan/Asia). Nominations were entertained from the floor. Duane Haines nominated and described the background of Joel Villensky (Indiana University, Fort Wayne, USA). Stan Finger nominated and introduced Eugenio Frixione (Center for Research and Advanced Studies, Mexico City, Mexico). George Joseph nominated and introduced Gül Russell (Texas A&M University, USA). Stan Finger nominated David Millet (UCLA, USA) but it was not known whether he agreed to be a candidate so the nomination was withdrawn. No additional names were put forth. **A count of paper ballots determined that Gül Russell was elected as Member at Large for the 2004-2007 term.**

8. Awards and Prizes (Marjorie Lorch)

Due to the timing of her return flight to London, Marjorie Lorch was unable to attend the Business Meeting. Summarizing her report to the Board:

There were no nominations for the award for Outstanding Essay this year. There were several nominations from members and, interestingly, from publishers for the **Award for Outstanding Book in the History of the Neurosciences**. After eliminating edited books and late entries, the committee considered the applications and decided in favor of **Joseph Robinson's** 2001 book on the history of the synapse, 1890-1990. Robinson is the retired Chair of Pharmacology at SUNY Stony Brook, now living in Charlottesville, Virginia, working on his third book which will follow this one.

In order that committee members may procure, distribute, read, and consider nominated texts, the deadlines for subsequent Book, Essay, and Article nominations will be earlier. Bijal Mehta noted that Calls for Nominations for awards should be announced much more widely; for example, the Outstanding Essay call (2006) should be announced to members of American Medical Students Association.

9. *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences (JHN)* (Peter Koehler)

Stan reported that the academic part of JHN is doing well—in fact, better than it has ever done. The number and quality of papers being submitted and published is high; the backlog will take the journal into 2005. Reviewers have been doing an excellent job with manuscripts they review;

about 75% of the papers have been accepted after one or two revisions. 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.

Swets & Zeitlinger's journals were sold to Taylor and Francis (TF), headquartered in Philadelphia, in 2003. The transfer of manuscripts and records has taken time and led to delays in getting out the first two issues this year; furthermore, TF was required to use Swets' distributor, Turpin, for the past year. The managing editor, Jill Millard, reports that issue 1 is in the mail and issues 2 and 3 will be mailed in August. TF attend many more scientific conferences than did Swets, so the journal will be more visible. Stan and Peter are working with the managing editor on getting the journal advertised in TF publications and elsewhere. Members are encouraged to get their libraries to subscribe to the journal. TF will send a letter to all members, present and past, explaining the problems of the past couple of years and explaining steps (including the transfer of publishing and, now, distribution to TF) that were taken to resolve them.

10. Arrangements for 10th Annual Meeting in St Andrews, Scotland in 2005 (Malcolm Macmillan, President-Elect and Nick Wade, Co-Organizer)

Mac thanked Ed for his presidency and Ed and Debra Fine for a job well done putting together the Montreal meeting. Ed added thanks to Henri Cohen and his assistants at UQAM.

Gül Russell thanked the Program Committee for accommodating the inaugural film viewing, which was very popular. A similar program will be arranged by Gül and Geneviève Aubert for the next meeting, but earlier in the day.

Mac and Nick Wade (Dundee University) will organize the 2005 meeting at Scotland's oldest university (and Britain's 3rd oldest, founded 1413) and the home of golf, St Andrews, 5-9 July 2005. His PowerPoint presentation (with bagpipe prelude) began with St Andrews' connection to neuroscience—primarily through golf. New Hall, the conference residence overlooking the old golf course (and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the center of town); it is a 3 star hotel boasting 500 Superior rooms (en suite bathrooms, double beds), 30 rooms with extra pull-out beds to sleep a third person, and 8 wheelchair accessible rooms. The Physics Department building, 400 meters away, has a theatre and lobby which will be the site of paper and poster presentations. The overall rate for 2005 is expected to be 78.65 GBP per person/day (single; 40.95 GBP per person for 2 per room) all inclusive—accommodation and 3 self-service meals per day. There will be a non-residential daily registration rate for locals. The dinner (with extra cost included in the registration fee) will be in Lower College Hall, closer to town. Walking tours of the Old Town will be arranged.

The conference will run Tuesday morning July 5 through Saturday morning July 9. Registrants may arrive early but may stay over only until Monday because the Open is held on the Old Course the week following our conference. There is no reduced rate provision for students, but students may achieve economy by bunking 2 or 3 to a room. Mac described transportation routes to St Andrews, which is 20 miles south of Dundee and 50 miles north of Edinburgh but is

most internationally connected by air via Glasgow, 50 miles to the west; this will be explained in detail on the ISHN website.

Entertainment will include an evening of Scottish music. The Program Committee will investigate offering a “Medical Enlightenment” excursion to the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons and some free time in Edinburgh. One or more sessions in the program will address themes with some local content, such as Glasgow’s historical importance with respect to head trauma.

11. Other Business

Ed Fine welcomed Malcolm Macmillan as the new ISHN President and presented him with a gavel purchased in 1983, made from an olive tree in Israel. Explaining that the olive tree is a symbol of peace and understanding, Ed wished both for Mac and his tenure. In conclusion, all attendees were invited to the lobby for a group photograph to commemorate the annual meeting.

12. Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Minutes recorded by Russell Johnson, Secretary
29 June 2004

N.B. (added 25 June 2005): Peter Koehler called for the drafting of Action Lists of decisions and assignments reached at each meeting (ISHN Board, JHN Editorial Board, ISHN Business). These will be circulated to members of each interested group by the Secretary or meeting chair immediately following the annual meeting, in order to quickly inform members of decisions and to effectively and immediately remind individuals of tasks they offered or were assigned to pursue, without waiting for transcription of each full set of Minutes.