

# International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) 2005 ISHN Business Meeting Minutes

St Andrews University (St Andrews, Scotland)

8 July 2005  
11:10am – 12:30pm

**1. Welcome:** President Malcolm (Mac) Macmillan called the meeting to order and thanked members for attending. Apologies for absence noted from George Joseph, Treasurer.

**2. Minutes of 2004 Business Meeting** were approved subject to corrections by the Board of Directors and will be circulated to the membership following the meeting.

### **3. Report on 2004 Annual Meeting at University of Quebec at Montreal (Ed Fine)**

Past-President Ed Fine thanked everyone who participated and attended for a very successful and enjoyable meeting held in Montreal from 24-29 June 2005, and described highlights: meeting with TENNET; a day-long program on The “Long” Eighteenth Century; symposium on Donald O. Hebb’s centenary; symposia at the Montreal Neurological Institute on multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy surgery in North America; a dinner cruise; and annual banquet at the headquarters hotel. Seventy people registered for the meeting.

### **4. Report on 2005 Annual Meeting**

Nick Wade emphasized the need to have a local liaison at a meeting venue, in order to deal with problems that arise during preparations, especially when the President resides elsewhere. Mac added that the “Local Arrangements” Committee was far-flung (Scotland, Australia, Connecticut, California) and succeeded because Nick was nearly “on site” and the university was able to handle credit card charges for registrations.

The number of papers and registrants was close to those seen in Montreal, the difference being no participation by locals from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Christopher Gardner-Thorpe recommended inviting locals to present papers and attend the dinner, and advertise to the national organizations (*e.g.*, British Association of Neurologists). Mac reported on efforts to place 35-40 announcements in calendars of professional associations. Nick added this points out the need for a very local liaison to make such contacts.

At Axel Karenberg’s prompting, discussion favored a four-and-a-half day long meeting, which included a day trip of sessions and a tour in Edinburgh. Stan Finger requested that meetings schedule one free afternoon and evening so all attendees—including those otherwise trapped in board and editorial meetings—may explore and enjoy the host city if they choose. Moshe

Feinsod noted that the length of the meeting is a function of the number of the number of accepted papers, and future meetings may be longer if parallel sessions are not programmed.

Bob Frank moved a vote of thanks for the work of the Local Arrangements Committee; Sam Greenblatt added a friendly amendment to recognize Edith Macmillan and Christine Wade, who organized activities for accompanying persons as well as provided assistance with meeting preparations and accomplishments.

## **5. Secretary's Report (Russell Johnson)**

Membership forms (Full, Student, and Gift) are available on the society's website. Taylor & Francis (T+F), which processes memberships and extracts its subscription fee (\$100 of \$110 total) for the journal, is refining an online form which people may use to request new member and renewal invoices—this will eliminate one step and thus facilitate the application process. T+F is preparing brochures describing the journal and including a membership/subscription form, which members may request in batches to take to their other professional meetings; place requests with officers of the society or with Moira Carroll, our managing editor who also fields inquiries about difficulties with individual subscriptions.

Membership is down this year to 82 full and 11 student members due to problems, yet again, with the distributor of membership renewal invoices by Swets' remnant distributing arm, Extenza/Turpin. 55 people who did not renew from 2004 will be personally contacted and encouraged by members of the ISHN and JHN boards.

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. Members should post their own messages so their email addresses appear in the "From" field; this will facilitate contact by respondents who do not reply to the entire list membership. 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.

Moshe Feinsod asked that all members participate in recruiting new members to expand the society's membership and annual meeting. Joel Villensky complimented the international scope of the society but asked that the next step in collegiality be taken—sometimes research and other questions cannot be answered by the United States or Australia, but contact with a member in the country of interest is needed to facilitate research or answer questions about access and so forth. Giorgio Zanchin noted that the ISHM (International Society for the History of Medicine) has national delegates to answer questions, address problems, distribute information, and make connections. Georg Kreutzberg used Albert Aguayo of Montreal, and President of IBRO, as an example of someone who should be brought back into the society, perhaps as a candidate for an invited lecture. Mac described his efforts to personally write to 290 former members and people who were never members but published in the journal, with an invitation to attend the meeting and reconsider membership.

## 6. Treasurer's Report (George Joseph, in absentia)

Malcolm Macmillan gave a report based on conversations with George Joseph. As of 31 December 2005, our starting balance was just over \$20,000; income of approximately \$4,000 was met by expenses of \$5,000, leaving a pre-meeting balance of \$19,781. A donation of \$750 from Abbott Laboratories in support of the 2004 epilepsy symposium is not recorded yet. Final costing for the 2005 meeting was not available, but organizers anticipate no loss and perhaps see income over expenses close to 2,000 GBP which will be identified as conference seed money, separate from general accounts, for next year's meeting. Income from the 2005 Silent Book Auction will contribute to student travel funding awards in 2006.

## 7. Nominations and Elections

Mac 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 Asia. Mac presented the Board's nomination of Russell Johnson (UCLA, USA). Nominations from the floor were: Sherry Ginn (Wingate University, Wingate, North Carolina, USA) and Paolo Mazzarello (University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy). **A count of paper ballots determined that Russell Johnson was elected as ISHN President-elect.**

For the newly-vacant office of Secretary (3-year term), Laurie Swan (University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, USA) was nominated. **A motion for a vote of acclamation to elect Laurie Swan as ISHN Secretary was passed.**

Laurie Swan requested to rotate off the **Awards & Prizes Committee** (Marjorie Lorch, Axel Karenberg, Joel Villensky); **Sherry Ginn** accepted a nomination and appointment to the committee.

## 8. Awards and Prizes (Marjorie Lorch)

The committee was unanimous in its selections of recipients of this year's prizes from numerous candidates:

- ISHN 2005 Award for Lifetime Contribution to the History of the Neurosciences:  
**C.U.M. (Chris) Smith** (Aston University, Birmingham, UK)
- ISHN 2005 Award for Outstanding Article in the History of the Neurosciences:  
**Stanley Finger** (Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, USA) and  
**Nick J. Wade** (University of Dundee, Scotland)  
The neuroscience of Helmholtz and the theories of Johannes Muller. Part 1:

Nerve cell structure, vitalism, and the nerve impulse. *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences*. 2002; 11(2):136-155.

The neuroscience of Helmholtz and the theories of Johannes Muller. Part 2: Sensation and perception. *Journal of the History of the Neurosciences*. 2002; 11(3):234-254.

In order that committee members may procure, distribute, read, and consider nominated texts, the deadlines for next year's Book, Student Essay, and Lifetime Contribution award nominations will be earlier. Ideally, submit or arrange for the delivery of two (2) copies of a nominated Book (if this proves too difficult, let the committee know as early as possible so it can arrange for interlibrary loan delivery to reviewers), which is a monograph or multi-authored (but not edited) text published within 3 years of the year of the award. Nominations for the ISHN 2006 Award for Outstanding Student Essay in the History of the Neurosciences should be in the form of three (3) copies of the nominated essay (or one (1) copy of a nominated thesis/dissertation) and a cover letter with documentation of the nominee's student status. Self-nominations are welcomed. Axel Karenberg, chairing the Lifetime Contributions prize (with Ed Fine and George York) likewise welcomed nominations for this award, which may be given annually.

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

Stan reported that JHN is doing well—Extenza/Turpin no longer distributes (or fails to distribute) the journal and membership invoices; T+F's contract with them expired after December 2004 and the journal now is delivered on time. JHN entered 2005 with a backlog of nearly 1 year, at 5 to 6 articles per issue. This is healthy, because a larger backlog elicits complaints about papers not being published in a timely manner; and a smaller one puts great pressure on the editors to fill issues. The number and quality of papers being submitted and published is high; the backlog will take the journal into 2006. Reviewers have been doing an excellent job with manuscripts they review; about 60% of the papers have been accepted within one or two revisions. About one third of the contributors are not members of the ISHN, and the editors will make an effort to encourage these authors to join. Accepted papers are published within one year, and the editors are able to inform contributors where in the workflow their papers are at any given time. In response to Christopher Gardner-Thorpe's question about A4 format which ranks higher on the shelf, Stan answered this is acceptable if the publisher goes in that direction.

The journal hosts several columns, whose editors invite submissions:

- Book Reviews (Paul Foley)
- NeuroHistAlerts (Chris Smith)
- NeuroWords (Duane Haines and Régis Olry)
- Neurognostics (Ed Fine)

Several special issues (with guest editors) are in development or under discussion:

Neuroscience in Nazi Germany (Axel Karenberg)

History of Neurosciences in Nobel Prizes (Marina Bentivoglio)

History of Russian Neurosciences (Peter Koehler)

How ideas are represented visually in the neurosciences (Amy Ione, Chris Smith, Nick Wade)

History of Cerebral Localization (George York)

**10. Arrangements for 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Pavia, Italy in 2006** (Moshe Feinsod, President-Elect)

Mac reported that Moshe Feinsod accepted an offer from Paolo Mazzarello and others to host the next annual meeting in Pavia, Italy. The conference will include programs about the 1906 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, awarded to Pavia's Camillo Golgi and Spain's Santiago Ramón y Cajal. Giorgio Zanchin described the historical and artistic significance of Pavia, site of a 14<sup>th</sup> century university and home to Volta and Golgi, 35 km from Milan.

Moshe reported that the date is being negotiated for the first week in July or last week in July. It may be followed by a satellite meeting in Haifa.

**11. Other Business**

Malcolm Macmillan welcomed Moshe Feinsod as the new ISHN President and presented him with a gavel, made from an olive tree in Israel in 1981 and presented to him last year by Ed Fine. Explaining that the olive tree is a symbol of peace and understanding, Mac wished both for Moshe and his tenure.

**12. Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 pm.**

Minutes recorded by Russell Johnson, Secretary  
8 July 2005