

ISCEV Newsletter 2009



From the President



ISCEV remains full of surprises. We even had a little “palace revolution”; experienced members suggested we should re-orient towards retinal imaging. To which my immediate reaction was: of course! Embrace change with open arms, it will arrive anyway.

But then, I see visual electrophysiology as quite alive and kicking in its niche. Of course we also look at the OCT, and it

plays a major role in my own research. Also when every so often a retinal case appears where the ERG / mfERG is pathological while the OCT (and possibly even fundus autofluorescence) is normal, I smile and add it to my collection. At this year’s Symposium we will be hearing more about comparison of imaging and electrophysiology results in various diseases. At present, there is no replacement for electrophysiology when objectively assessing visual function. In suspected non-organic visual loss, electrophysiological information remains vital, particularly in cases eligible for financial compensation for visual loss, such as those related to work incidents. The issue is open for general discussion in our new wiki (thanks to the efforts of David Keating) under the topic “Scope of ISCEV”.

What is no surprise, but a comforting feeling nonetheless, is the ISCEV family spirit. It was heart-warming in the way you ISCEV members reacted to the sad news of Vaegan’s untimely death. For me he was by far the most colourful personality in ISCEV. His memory lives on very strongly – as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, he has deeply touched everyone who knew him and his memory survives.

To create memorable ISCEV Symposia, every year the organisers tread the narrow line between a lavish hospitality and affordable comfort. Cost concerns are most pressing for our younger

members, who will carry on the torch. The symposium is but one of the many efforts going on inside ISCEV. Many indeed – I think we need to acknowledge the limitations from our naturally finite resources: ISCEV membership is roughly constant over the last two decades, but our activities have grown. We now have three standards (ERG, PERG, VEP), two guidelines (mfERG, technical), the Dodt award, the Adachi award, the educational courses, the small grants for laboratory visits, the symposium travel grants and more. Each activity needs dedicated colleagues to drive it forward and lend their considered judgement, no small chore. My heartfelt thanks to you, you know who you are. Further warm thanks go towards Elke Dodt and Emiko Adachi, who both were recently able to augment their respective award funds.

But we must also exercise constraint here: to keep quality high, I feel we need to stay focused and not overextend ourselves. Thus when new ideas come up, I welcome them, but also consider: right, so what activity will we drop in its place?

Before I conclude, I would like to point to a remaining immaturity in our field: the necessity to compile lab-specific normals. In principle, we should be able to acquire an electrophysiological instrument from any competent company, switch it on, maybe enter lab-specific values such as stimulation distance, and be ready to record and compare results to accepted normal limits. We all know that we are not there yet, but that situation must be reached and has been reached in other fields, e.g. in sonography. In this light, I am very happy that John Robson has taken up the task to renew our “ISCEV Technical Guidelines” in a way that manufacturers can develop internationally comparable stimuli. For example: it is amazingly difficult to equate a “white” flash generated with LEDs to a metameric “white” xenon strobe flash, especially when receptor-specific pathophysiology comes into play.

Please read this in a positive light: difficult problems should be approached in a spirited manner. With this uplifting thought I conclude this year’s “presidential message”; happy traces to all of you!

*Michael Bach, PhD
ISCEV President*

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The ISCEV Newsletter is published yearly on behalf of the ISCEV membership. Editors this year are David Keating, ISCEV Director of International Communications and Daphne McCulloch ISCEV Secretary General. It is simultaneously published on the web and on paper. Address of the ISCEV website: WWW.ISCEV.ORG

To improve future newsletters, send your comments to David Keating, d.keating@clinmed.gla.ac.uk or Daphne McCulloch, dlmc@gcal.ac.uk

From the Secretary General

What a pleasure it was to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2008! Looking back on the archives, I was struck by distinguished ISCEV leaders in our past. Working on the Symposium Programme Committee brought home the current quality and depth of interest in our field. We have another chance to look back at our accomplishments in a few years when we reach our 50th International Symposium.

As the world was gripped by financial turmoil in this year, ISCEV is secure with comfortable reserves gained over five decades of careful budgeting. We have even managed to increase our commitment to young presenters in this difficult year by awarding an unprecedented 12 travel grants. Rising costs and lower funding levels worldwide may well impact on some of our activities but in the foreseeable future the society is safe.

ISCEV's foundation is the generations of members who volunteered their time; sponsorship in our field is a relatively minor resource. Nearly all of the work of ISCEV is voluntary and some tasks are large: hosting a symposium, building a consensus for the ISCEV Standards, reviewing and editing for our journal. My fear for ISCEV, and for research societies in general, is that scientists and clinicians may lose the ability to offer so much of their time as

universities and hospitals increasingly adopt 'business models' for their activities. But dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers have never been in short supply; ISCEV is safe as long as this is the case.

Thank you all for ratifying me for a second term as Secretary-General. It is a real pleasure to be at the hub of ISCEV communications. In my second term of office I have stepped down from one of the larger tasks – that of Board liaison to the Symposium organisers. From 2009, this task has been taken over by the Regional Vice Presidents. The ISCEV Symposia in Glasgow, Fontevraud, Hyderabad and Morgantown are highlights of my career, but I am enjoying less travel and more time to focus on other things.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Abano Terme (Padova)!



*Daphne L McCulloch, OD, PhD
Secretary-General, ISCEV*

Report of the Director of Education

Two ISCEV teaching courses were held last year in association with the annual meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia. There was the usual human course, but, in addition, for the first time, there was also an animal course arranged by Dr Neal Peachey. There were a total of 70 participants for the two Courses, the majority being for the human course, and the scores from the participants who completed their assessment form were very high. Congratulations are due to the faculties which also included Drs Bach (H), Bush (A), Frishman (A, H), Grover (H), Hogg, (A,H) Jamison (A), Komoray (A), Neitz (A), Pardue (A), Poloschek (H), Ridder (A), Seeliger (A), Thompson (H) and Zhang (A). Thanks are due to Vernon Odom and his willing team for excellent local organisation, and also to the equipment companies for kindly donating time and energy to assist with the practical sessions.

At the time of writing we look forward very much to the forthcoming ISCEV meeting in Italy. The traditional ISCEV course (human) will take place with a faculty of Drs Bach, Hogg, Holder, Hood, Kellner and Thompson.

Drs Ulrich Kellner and Klaus R  ther ran the annual German language course in Siegburg in October with 22 attendees and Drs Bach and Lapp were also on the faculty. The annual Moorfields course took place in March and was fully subscribed with 36 full registrants. The faculty included

ISCEV Members Drs Arden, Audo, Hogg, Heckenlively, Holder, Leroy, Neveu, Niemeyer, Robson (AG), and Thompson. The annual course in Munich was organised in April by Thomas Berninger with a faculty including ISCEV Members Bach, Berninger, Hogg, Holder, Jaegle, Krastel, Meigen, Palmowski, Rudolph, and Wildberger.

A course on Paediatric Electrophysiology (Drs Breceelj, Holder, Lorenz, McCullough, Thompson), and Symposia on paediatric retinal dystrophies and medically unexplained visual loss, took place recently at SOE. Good feedback was received from attendees. Drs Bach, Hawlina, Holder, Leroy, and Reuther from the ISCEV membership were involved in the Symposia.

ISCEV Members intending to run "ISCEV Approved" Courses are again reminded that they should forward details of course content and faculty to the Director of Education for approval. Only then can details be published on the ISCEV web-site.

*Prof. Graham E Holder
Director of Education
Moorfields Eye Hospital
June 2009*

Report of the Director of International Communications

An international society such as ISCEV is formed to enable communication among its members. We are fortunate in ISCEV that we have an extremely pro-active society with excellent communications joining us together:

Annual ISCEV Symposia, regular regional meetings, and educational courses across the world all provide members with the opportunity to participate personally in the many activities of the society. My role is to co-ordinate communication among members via many routes; the website, email messages, newsletters and CEVnet all contribute to this process.

In October 2008, we launched an interactive section of our ISCEV website – the ISCEV ‘wiki’ - which will provide a new echelon of communication for us. Wiki enables individual members of the society to contribute directly and immediately on any given topic. For example, at the time of writing this piece for the newsletter, members can choose to comment on the latest draft of the ISCEV Standard for Clinical VEPs (2008 update), the proposed Extended ERG

protocols for advanced investigations and clinical trials or join the discussion on the ‘Scope of ISCEV’.

Any new topic which may be of interest to the society can be posted for interactive debate by any ISCEV member. Comments can be posted at any time and seen by all. If you have not yet registered, then I would urge you to give it a try. For the nervous, there is a safe area called the ‘Sandbox’ where you can explore and try the wiki features for yourself, until you feel confident enough to ‘go live’ with your comments. Those with a keen interest can register for automatic email notification of changes and comments at any level on the wiki.

I am confident this new medium will encourage you all to contribute and comment on issues affecting our clinical practice and our research in a manner that we all will find gratifying.

David Keating
Director of International Communications

Report of the Director of Standards



It is a pleasure to return to the ISCEV Board as Director of Standards. I appreciate your confidence in giving me this opportunity, and will work hard to justify your support. It has been a busy year for Standards since the last Symposium.

The 2008 revision of the Standard for Clinical Electrophysiology was published, and most notably provides precise values for flash and background light levels. Also of importance, a new scheme for naming ERGs is laid out which defines each response in terms of its adaptation state and flash intensity (e.g. “dark-adapted 3.0 ERG” for a 3.0 cd.sec/m² flash).

The 2009 revision of the VEP Standard is underway under Vern Odom’s direction, and all members are urged to look at the proposed draft on the ISCEV Wiki site, and offer comments, corrections or suggestions. As with the ERG Standard revision, testing parameters will be tightened (since modern equipment allows precise settings). We hope to approve this

document at the ISCEV membership during the Symposium in Padova.

Another important initiative, guided by Eberhart Zrenner, is the development of Extended ERG Protocols for procedures beyond the Standard ERG. These include protocols such as intensity series, S cone responses, etc; following recognized protocols will be important not only for certain patients but also for clinical trials on therapy or toxicity where a specific physiologic system of the retina is involved. Several proposals are on the ISCEV Wiki site, and everyone is urged to log on and comment. We hope to discuss these in Padova.

Finally, John Robson is beginning a review of our old ‘Calibration Guidelines’. We need to update our practical guidelines for setting up and calibrating equipment but also need to specify our fundamental definitions of light stimulation and recording to be more consistent across the wide variety of equipment and light sources in current use. Anyone with a special interest in these issues should contact John.

The ISCEV Standards have enhanced ISCEV’s reputation and led to a higher level of testing that is interpretable world-wide. The challenge ahead is to continue to incorporate new scientific and clinical information, while keeping procedures practical and realizable in many different laboratories. Feedback is always welcome!

Michael Marmor, MD
Director of Standards

Editor's Report

This is the fourth annual report that I am writing as Editor of the Society's journal, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. We are also in the fourth year of using the web based "Editorial Manager TM", with much success, and have negotiated a new contract with Springer. We will publish six issues a year, with an additional issue, only online, for the meeting abstracts. The new contract expands our page quota from 64 to 80 pages per issue and maintains free color illustrations, which is a benefit as many other journals are charging for color in the hard copy.

There is also open access, hard won, for all ISCEV Standards, Guidelines and Procedures that appear in regular issues. A separate website has been created for special protocols.

The Associate Editors, Bach, Kondo and Brodie continue to support the journal; the Case Report section has flourished under Brodie's stewardship. The Editorial Board has two new appointees, Suresh Viswanathan and Thomas Meigen, and sadly has lost Vaegan. Many members give generously of their time in reviewing manuscripts. Diana Epstein of Di-Ep Biomedical Editorial Services Doc-oph@di-ep.com is always there to help, and continues to administer the editorial office and to supervise the online submission process.

Special issues

A special issue on "Rat models for retinopathy of prematurity", edited by board members Fulton and Lachapelle promises, thanks to their hard work, to be a strong one, with review papers from leaders in the field. The issue

will have a large impact and garner many citations, we hope. If you have an idea for a special issue, please let us know, your ideas are valuable. We will work with you!

Logistics

All papers are being published online as soon as corrected proofs are ready, and all formal hard copy issues are being published on time, thus far. The quick timeline for publication of accepted papers benefits the authors, and the readers, and should help our impact factor which will drop if recent papers are not cited. Please do your part. It is so important to cite the most recent revisions ISCEV Standards, Guidelines and Procedures, and new papers. We try to catch and replace outdated references before papers go to press, as some authors have experienced.

Warning and Invitation

There are too few papers being submitted that are worthy of publication in the Original Research and Technical Note categories. Please consider publishing some of your research in the Society journal, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. This is the web address to use: www.editorialmanager.com/doop/.

*Laura J. Frishman, PhD
Editor-in-Chief, Documenta
Ophthalmologica*

Regional Reports

Americas

In 2008, it was the turn of the Americas to host the ISCEV International Symposium. Thanks to our hosts, J Vernon Odom and Monique Leys, our international community enjoyed excellent science and the best of American hospitality in Morgantown, West Virginia (see details elsewhere in this NL).

Our regional meeting was again held in association with the ARVO meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. The highlight of the meeting was an invited address by Dr. Eliot Berson on his use of the ERG in forecasting visual compromise in patients with retinitis pigmentosa. Approximately 60 attendees were present at the meeting. This was lower than previous years. I attribute this to a combination of factors including the sorry state of the economy, H1N1 virus alerts, and the competing Vision Research Conference on Mechanisms of Macular Degeneration. I would like to thank all of the speakers and attendees for another lively and stimulating meeting.

In other news from the region, Marilyn Schneck has had to withdraw her offer to host the 2011 meeting in Berkley. The ISCEV Board will discuss alternative plans for the 2011 Symposium in the Americas. Details will be discussed at the meetings during our ISCEV symposium in Italy.

All of our best wishes go to Bill Dawson in his battle with health problems.

See you in Abano Terme!

*Mitchell Brigell, PhD
Vice-President for the Americas*



Europe and Africa

This was another busy year in Europe, particularly in the UK, where BriSCEV held its annual meeting in Cardiff, Europe's youngest capital, during September. Hosted by Prof Rachel North, Dr Alison Binns, Dr Tom Margrain and Dr Margaret Woodhouse, the well-attended meeting enjoyed excellent facilities in the impressive new building of the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences at Cardiff University. The full and imaginative programme comprised three oral sessions (ERG Analysis, Novel Techniques and Clinical Electrophysiology), a large poster session and a well-populated exhibition. Coffee and light refreshments during the poster sessions were sponsored by Roland Consult. The organisers took full advantage of the resources of their prestigious school to include two excellent keynote lectures. Anticipating one of ISCEV's special topics for 2009, Director of Research Wolfgang Drexler introduced the audience to Optophysiology: non-invasive optical probing of depth-resolved retinal physiology. And, broadening our horizons, Research Group Lead Dr Jon Erichsen led us into the fascinating world of bird vision. Not only was this captivating science, it also provided valuable cocktail-party information (do you know why pigeons walk in the silly way they do?). In addition, and probably unique, a special lecture with amazing pictures, detailed a study on circadian rhythm in the context of a 700 mile Antarctic expedition. Thank you Dr Cameron Hudson!



Cardiff Castle: a fitting venue for the BriSCEV annual banquet

Following a drinks reception sponsored by Diagnosys UK, we headed to Cardiff Castle for a tour and a Welsh banquet. Cardiff may be Europe's youngest capital, but its history dates back 2000 years to the Romans. The banquet was great; not only did the waiters and waitresses serve us delicious food, between courses they gathered on a stage to sing for us. Boy, can these Welsh people sing! They even persuaded some BriSCEV members onto the stage, but perhaps it's best to draw a curtain over that.



Welsh singers

However, this is not to say that BriSCEV members don't have musical talent. They performed brilliantly at the ISCEV symposium in Morgantown, West Virginia. Those of you unlucky

enough to miss it, and those who wish to re-live the experience, just follow this link

www.briscev.org.uk/BriSCEVatISCEV_files/frame.htm

In 2009 the meeting will be in Sheffield during 14-15 September, and details can be found at

www.briscev.org.uk/briscev2009.html. This, the 7th annual BriSCEV meeting will utilise the superb conference suite located at Sheffield Hallam University's central campus. The venue is a mere 200 metres from the newly refurbished Midland Railway Station, with excellent hotels just across the road. And trains from Britain's Eurostar terminus at London St Pancras run directly to Sheffield. As always, BriSCEV extends a warm welcome to all ISCEV members, wherever they are from.

At the beginning of October, as is customary, the European Vision and Eye Research society included a joint ISCEV session in its programme, in addition to an instructional course and papers on electrophysiological topics in other sessions. Our presence at this very pleasant and friendly meeting grows each year. On this occasion, as a warm-up for our Padova symposium, our session was chaired by Dr Patrizia Tormene. It was a particularly interesting session, with some new (as well as old) faces and a strong representation of paediatric work. It can still be viewed on the conference website

www.ever.be/view_session.php?ses_id=736

ISCEV4EVER will be back again this year, with some more new faces, and a very strong programme, chaired by Prof Pierre Lachapelle. Take a look at the line-up at

www.ever.be/view_session.php?ses_id=882

Finally, I must end with an apology to all of you in the other bit of Europe for the overwhelmingly UK-based nature of my report this year. I know there are ISCEV-related meetings going on over there on the mainland because every time I try to contact Michael Bach he is away speaking at one of them. But no-one has sent me any information about them. And what I don't know, I can't report. The remedy is in your hands!

*Prof Colin Barber PhD
Vice-president for Europe & Africa*

Asia and Oceania

The 56th annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (JSCEV) organized by Professor Yamamoto was held at Tokyo as combined meeting with the 44th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Ophthalmological Optics on 5-6 September 2008. Because of combined meeting, about 500 participants attended. The 57th meeting will be held at Urayasu, Japan on 30-31 October 2009 organized by me. At that meeting we will have the first Korea-Japan joint symposium.

The 4th annual meeting of the Korean Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (KSCEV) organized by Dr. Kwon, Oh Woong and Dr. Ohn, Young-Hoon was held on 18 October 2008 at Korea University. Many topics and free papers were presented at the symposium and Drs. Shigeki Machida and Atsushi Mizota were invited as guest lecturers. More than one hundred doctors and technicians registered and the symposium was performed successfully.

The special event of our region this year was the first ISCEV supported symposium at Asian Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) I organized that symposium and we had 7 speakers and all of them were ISCEV member, Drs. Yamamoto, Kondo, Lai, Mathur, Machida, Ohn and Moschos.

Finally, Vaegan usually wrote a report from Oceania after me. I'm missing him.

*Atsushi Mizota, MD
Vice-President for Asia & Oceania*

Minutes of the 2008 ISCEV Membership Meeting

1 Opening Welcome & Report of the President

The President opened the meeting and welcomed ISCEV members. He thanked Pierre Lachapelle, Board member-at-large, who finishes his second term this year and welcomed Mitchell Brigell in his new role as Vice President for the Americas

2 Minutes of the 2007 ISCEV Membership Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the 2007 ISCEV Membership Meeting as printed in the ISCEV 2007 Newsletter (NL) were adopted as a true record.

2.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Report from the 2008 Symposium Organiser:

Dr J Vernon Odom reported that the symposium had 158 delegates and 216 participants including trade and accompanying people. There were 102 scientific presentations including 36 oral, 3 keynote addresses, and 66 posters. Delegates came from 24 countries around the world.

4 ISCEV Officers' Updates and discussion of the reports printed in the 2006 NL

4.1 **Approval of the Treasurer's Report (2008 NL)** the report was unanimously exonerated by a vote of the members.

4.2 Matters arising from the reports of the other ISCEV officers in the 2007 NL

4.2.1 The **Director of Education** thanked the lecturers for the successful ISCEV Teaching Course and Neil Peachy for organising the successful Visual electrophysiology in Animals course (8-10 July). He also announced the establishment of the ISCEV Education Committee to support and develop educational activities. [Colin Barber, Don Hood, Ulrich Kellner, Mineo Kondo, Pierre Lachapelle, Dorothy Thompson, Michael Bach (ex officio)].

4.2.2 The **Director of Standards** thanked Prof Zrenner, Chair of the ISCEV Committee for Extended Protocols for progress towards establishing protocols suitable for detailed investigations and clinical trials.

4.3 Other reports were accepted as printed in the NL without discussion.

5 Highlights of the ISCEV Board of Directors Meeting

The Board approved awarding of complimentary memberships to those with an active interest in clinical electrophysiology of vision and limited financial resources. Any ISCEV member can nominate an individual for any category of membership by notifying the Secretary-General. The Board awarded two complimentary memberships for 2008-2010 to nominees in Kenya and Cuba.

The activities of current ISCEV Committees was summarised: The ERG Standards Committee (updated standards finalised), the VEP Standards Committee (planning an update for approval in 2009), the ISCEV Technical Guidelines Committee will be re-constituted in 2008 and the Extended Protocols Committee has a series of ongoing meetings and draft protocols. All standards committees plan to use the interactive website for discussions with the members (Wiki site)

The members present formally exonerated the ISCEV Board of Directors by a show of hands (unanimous)

6 Report of the ISCEV Awards Committee:

6.1 The committee awarded eight travel grants (2 regional and 5 overseas) based on the discretion agreed last year to award more than six grants based on the quality of candidates.

In the first year of the programme, two **ISCEV grants for Extended Laboratory Visits** were awarded for visits to Prof Wachtmeister, Umeå/Sweden and to Dr Suavé, Alberta/Canada, both for studies in animal models. [Note: later in 2008 we awarded a final grant for a visit to Dr Jalaili, Hyderabad, India to study retinopathy of prematurity]

7 ISCEV Committee for the ERG Standard:

Michael Marmor, committee chair outlined revisions to nomenclature and the ranges for standard stimuli in the ISCEV Standard for Clinical Electrorretinography (2008 update). After discussion, the 2008 update passed by a large majority subject to minor editorial changes. I

8 Voting – ISCEV Board of Directors (for 2009-2012 terms of office):

8.1 Secretary-General of ISCEV: The presidential nomination of Daphne McCulloch to a second term was ratified.

8.2 Director of International Communications: David Keating and Thomas Meigen were selected by the members present as the two candidates to go forward to the mail ballot. [Keating was subsequently elected to a 2nd term.]

8.3 Vice President for Europe and Africa: Colin Barber was re-elected unopposed for a second term.

8.4 Director of Standards: From the slate of nominees, Michael Marmor and John Robson were selected by the members present as the two candidates to go forward to the mail ballot. [Marmor was subsequently elected.]

8.5 Member-at-Large (two positions): The nominees Masayuko Horiguchi, Matthias Seeliger and Richard Smith were selected to go forward to a postal ballot. [Horiguchi and Seeliger were subsequently elected].

9 Future ISCEV Symposia

9.1 Patrizia Tormene presented plans for the XLVII ISCEV Symposium in Padova Abano Terme, Italy, 6-10 July 2009.

9.2 Enid Chelva presented plans for the XLVIII ISCEV Symposium in Perth, Australia 7-10 Nov. 2010. The symposium themes "Electrophysiology genetics and imaging in retinal disease" and "Stimulus paradigms in multifocal electrophysiology" were announced.

9.3 XLIX Symposium (2011 in the Americas). Attractive invitations were presented for San Francisco (Marilyn Schneck), Amelia Island Florida (Sandeep Grover and Byron Lam) and for a cruise from New York to Montreal (Mitchell Brigell and Karen Holopigian). The members present voted, by secret ballot, for San Francisco and the cruise to go forward to the postal ballot by all members.

9.4 Invitations to Valencia Spain and Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2012 have been received in advance of the selection process next year.

Without other business the meeting closed at 18:36.

Daphne L McCulloch
Secretary-general

Treasurer's Report

Dear ISCEV members

The accompanying spreadsheet displays the financial data for 2004 – 2008 and an estimate for 2009. The figures are given in Euro, as all funds except for the US Dollar account are held in Euro. The accounting and tax records must be reported in Euro as well. The moderate loss in 2008 is mostly due to the exchange rate between US Dollar (which defines the membership dues) and Euro and to the increased financing of travel grants and lab visits. In addition, depending on the dates of payment, Symposium return, Symposium financing and Secretary general office costs are variable between years as can be seen. To date, the situation of ISCEV is stable. Publication and symposium pre-financing remain the major liabilities. Whereas publication financing can be predicted, Symposium financing depends on the necessities of each organisers local situation. ISCEV Membership is stable as well (lower line). There is not a decline in the membership, as some members pay late and I expect about 30 further members still to pay for 2009. In a more difficult worldwide financial situation, future prospects therefore will depend mainly on-

1. the stability of ISCEV membership,
2. the exchange rate of US Dollar and Euro and
3. the Symposium financing. Based on the current data, I have calculated a financial deficit for 2009, as prepayments for Perth and outstanding payments for Padova have to be taken into account. Please keep in mind, that ISCEV has accumulated a surplus of money over the years and that a moderate reduction of accounts will do well with keeping ISCEV a charitable organisation

Looking forward to see you in Padova!

*Ulrich Kellner, MD
Treasurer of ISCEV*

Treasurers Report

(Euro)	2004 closed	2005 closed	2006 closed	2007 closed	2008 closed	2009 estimated
Income						
Membership dues	29.227,95	27.138,00	33.943,97	28.090,23	23.855,55	22.000,00
Symposium income through treasurers office	0,00	28.638,16	5.440,89	0,00	0,00	0,00
Bank account interests	1.493,39	1.102,97	2.172,38	3.252,53	2.887,38	1.800,00
Publisher editorial payment	8.264,17	3.975,00	6.846,85	10.829,44	5.775,25	6.738,15
Symposium return (income & returned pre-financing)	0,00	19.128,63	22.343,00	0,00	0,00	1.919,79
Other income	0,00	500,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total Income	38.985,51	80.482,76	70.747,09	42.172,20	32.518,18	32.457,94
Expenditure						
Check handling fees, bank charges	1.468,13	532,17	413,83	221,99	119,35	200,00
Credit card handling fees	1.347,27	2.558,88	1.992,41	1.540,32	1.404,16	1.800,00
Internet services	1.135,26	162,58	569,55	213,54	569,96	600,00
Lawyer	3.297,32	131,10	139,20	0,00	0,00	200,00
Accounting	0,00	1.044,00	696,00	714,00	357,00	850,00
Secretary general office	4.697,91	4.227,60	14.828,00	2.587,20	9.295,54	4.203,40
Treasurers office	255,27	540,62	735,49	1.039,31	0,00	800,00
Editors office	4.098,00	1.062,50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Publishing DOOP	27.825,00	31.561,50	26.999,50	26.250,00	26.250,00	26.250,00
Symposium financing	44.095,50	46.302,48	12.776,57	7.363,23	1.980,26	15.000,00
Travel grants	2.904,85	2.457,20	2.893,12	3.499,28	4.870,38	6.000,00
Lab visits	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1.463,19	5.000,00
Total Expenditure	91.124,51	90.580,63	62.043,67	43.428,87	46.309,84	60.903,40
Balance						
Total Income - Total Expenditure	-52.139,00	-10.097,87	8.703,42	-1.256,67	-13.791,66	-28.445,46
Assets (as of 31.12.200x)						
USD Account	906,73	12.591,99	12.888,32	6.266,13	3.958,97	3.500,00
EURO Account	6.402,89	12.765,81	22.492,33	35.278,37	28.940,95	26.000,00
Deposit	136.394,27	108.624,58	107.122,08	99.701,48	101.425,24	80.000,00
Total Assets	143.703,89	133.982,38	142.502,73	141.245,98	134.325,16	109.500,00
Members (paid, honorary & emeritus)						
	276	264	282	285	267	228

In Memorium: Vaegan (1943 - 2008)



Vaegan was born on October 10, 1943 and died in Sydney on November 6, 2008 after receiving injuries in the Gong Charity bike ride for the MS Society. He began his academic career as an honors student at Sydney University with Professor Ross Day who also supervised his Master of Science research at Monash University in Melbourne. Vaegan received his Ph.D. at the University of New South Wales, where he also taught for a number of years. He did post-doctoral research and collaborations with a number of renowned scientists at a number of prestigious institutions, including Colin Blakemore at Cambridge University, Peter Watson at Addenbrooks Hospital, Professors Arden and Taylor at the Institute of Ophthalmology and Moorfields Eye Hospital and Len Matin at Columbia University. Following his training, he wore many hats (literally as well as figuratively); he taught, he did clinical and basic research and he worked in a supervisory capacity as a clinical electrophysiologist.

Throughout his career he published more than 80 original articles on vision and electrophysiology in refereed journals and presented at conferences more than 100 times. His early research interest was focused on amblyopia but he quickly branched out into many other areas of vision science and published on such diverse topics as glaucoma, retinal degenerations in humans and animals, pharmacology, and studies on the basic mechanisms of various electrophysiological measures.

Vaegan joined ISCEV in 1982 and was an avid and active member who made many contributions to our society. He collaborated on research projects with many ISCEV

members, was the newsletter editor in 2004 and served as a board member from 2002-2006. As well, he was enthusiastic about the ISCEV standards and served on standards committees for the EOG, PERG and VEP standards, which utilized his broad knowledge and expertise in electrophysiology. And of course, in 2000, he organized the fantastic ISCEV symposium in Sydney, which many members will remember as an extremely memorable and successful ISCEV. He also was one of the founding member of the ISCEV cyclists group and participated in all three ISCEV Bicycle Tours to date [in Scotland, in France (where his partner Liz and daughter Jo-Roxy escorted the group in their Mercedes van) and in West Virginia]. He was looking forward to the Italian Giro.

Vaegan had three children. The eldest is Harris who is 30. Harris has two children, Noah (3) and Elijah (1), with his wife of 5 years, Natalie. Harris works as a business analyst and is currently completing his MBA. Annabelle, at 27, is the middle child. She works in Public Relations, and, according to his daughter Jo-Roxy, looks the most like Vaegan. Annabelle enjoyed cooking many meals for her father. Jo-Roxy is the youngest. She is 24 and has followed in her father's academic footsteps. She says that she had the pleasure to work at the same university as her father (University of New South Wales) where they frequently met for coffee and to play squash. These are very happy memories for her. She is currently living in London and doing research with the University of Nottingham. She will have her second journal article published this year, which her father was very excited about. At the time of his death, Vaegan was engaged to be married to Liz, and they had planned to marry this year. Liz accompanied Vaegan to several ISCEV meetings and her lively presence will also be missed.

According to Liz, Vaegan always said his true friends were all of the people he spent time with at ISCEV symposiums in various countries through out the world.

Vaegan had a larger than life persona and was enthusiastic about all aspects of ISCEV, from the science to the swing dancing. He never missed an opportunity to share ideas, advice and cheer with fellow ISCEV members. He will be remembered fondly and missed by all. There was the character that we all knew of and the man and the great human being that few had the privilege of knowing. Sadly, ISCEV won't be the same without Vaegan.

Karen Holopigian & Pierre Lachapelle

Recollections of a Symposium: ISCEV 2008



ISCEV was 50 years old in 2008. The 46th ISCEV symposium was held in Morgantown, West Virginia, the home of West Virginia University and the WVU Eye Institute July 10th – July 15th. Prior to the symposium were two instructional courses one on the basics of human clinical electrophysiology of vision and the other on visual electrophysiology in animals.

Scientific Program

Naturally the most important portion of the ISCEV symposium is its scientific program. The scientific program consisted of presentation by 5 invited speakers centered around two topics. In addition, the Symposium had more than 100 accepted abstracts which were presented in 9 Oral Sessions and 3 Poster Sessions.



This year's symposium had two special and unique topics, each one of them with a broad range and far-reaching effect. These topics included: Correlation of structure and function; and, Electrophysiology and Low Vision.

Correlation of Structure and Function:

The field of electrodiagnostics is rapidly expanding. Improved computing power has expanded our ability to control stimuli and to analyze the biological signals elicited by them. Similar trends are also affecting other areas ranging from biochemistry and genetics to imaging of the retina and brain. Natural, fertile areas of study are the overlap of these factors. Thus, we had invited papers by Aina Puce and Paul Sieving directed towards structure and function relationships in the cortex and retina. Additionally, we had several sessions related to imaging and electrophysiology.

Electrophysiology and Low Vision.

Low Vision is a generic term for reduced visual function. Different countries may have different specific criteria, but the bottom line is that a large number of people, especially the elderly, are afflicted with conditions causing low vision. In the developed world one criterion



for identifying a patient as having low vision is when there is no medical or surgical treatment for the particular condition. Two of our invited speakers, Frans Riemslag and Kenji Yanashima, talked about the role of electrophysiology in



identifying and categorizing these patients. Each of them described the very important role that electrophysiology can play in assisting in the categorization and classification of these patients.

Our fifth invited speaker was William W. Dawson, who gave the Emiko Adachi Award Lecture on his research on naturally occurring age-related macular degeneration in monkeys.

Social Program



A wonderful feature of ISCEV symposiums is that in addition to our hard work, we endeavor to enjoy each other's company. At the 2008 symposium we had several activities which proved memorable for participants. As usual we had a welcoming reception and a farewell dinner and a tour of some local sights. This year we toured two

nearby Frank Lloyd Wright homes, Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob. Following the tour those who were interested participated in an Appalachian Square Dance. Many enjoyed going to the West Side Story musical at the WVU Creative Art Center. This year our ISCEV musicians performed better than ever. A new version of the Olympics was introduced by Colin Barber and Karen Holopigian. The treasure hunt included everyone and everything (even the flower arrangements of the hotel) and the suspense lasted until the final team performances at the banquet. We believe that this time creativity won over athleticism and politics. We learned about our famous non ISCEV twin from Mitch Bridgell. Before the meeting bikers were welcomed by the Morgantown mountain bike association and taken to the best spots around town. During the symposium the accompanying persons explored rural West Virginia and went to Blackwater Falls. After the meeting some participants got together for white water rafting. A tour to the WVU Eye Institute was offered at the conclusion of the meeting.

J. Vernon Odom, Monique Leys, and Christine Odom



Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award

The Eberhard Dodt Memorial honours an outstanding young scientist and presenter at the ISCEV Annual International Symposium. In presenting this award at the XLVI Symposium in Morgantown, West Virginia our president read the speech prepared by Mrs. Elke Dodt, widow of Prof. Dodt and founder of the award:

Most honoured Prize-winner, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

It has each time been a pleasure as well as an honour for me, during the ISCEV Symposium, to present to a young scientist the research prize named after my late husband. Young scientists who work in the field of electrophysiology of vision should be supported and encouraged to enlarge our knowledge in this branch of medicine, for the benefit of suffering people. This is the thirteenth year that the prize is being awarded.

On this occasion, unfortunately, I cannot present the prize in person, because – although I quite understand American security needs – the difficulties associated with a short visit to the USA are too much for me. Please therefore accept my decision not to come to Morgantown. Professor Bach has kindly agreed to pass on my greetings to you. Next year, in Italy, in “good old Europe”, if the Chairman so wishes, and I am still in good health, I will very gladly be present again.

“More research—better sight” is the motto of the “Neuro-ophthalmische Gesellschaft”, which also administers the Eberhard Dodt Foundation. Three years ago, in Glasgow, the names of Albert Einstein and Max Planck occurred to me as relevant for the prize-giving and laudation of the prize-

winner. Today it is once more the great German physicist, Max Planck, whom I quote and, after whom the Institute is named, in which Eberhard Dodt carried out his fundamental electrophysiological research on the eye. This year, 2008, marks the 150th anniversary of Max Planck’s birth. In an address to the Physical Society of London 1932 he said:

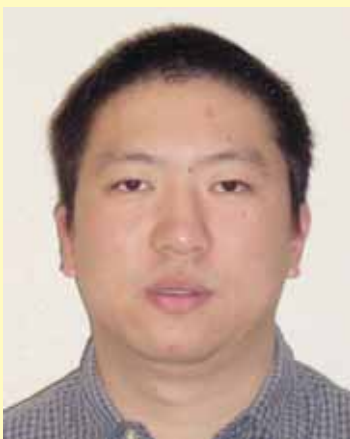
“... science does not mean quietly mediating, in the possession of securely acquired knowledge, rather it means unremitting work, and development that is constantly advancing towards a goal.”

This comment has, I believe, general application if scientists carry out their research with imagination, supported by specialist qualifications. To extend our knowledge, particularly in the field of medicine, always means the chance to conquer sickness and to help suffering people – and to make possible today what yesterday seemed impossible.

The Eberhard Dodt Prize for a young scientist, to promote research in the field of electrophysiology of vision, makes a contribution, if only quite a small one, to achieving these aims: it is an incentive not to sit back in the possession of securely acquired knowledge, but rather, by unremitting work and ever advancing development, to conquer sickness and to help suffering people.

It is this sense that from Germany I congratulate this year’s prize-winner and wish him with all my heart further success in his scientific work.

*June 2008
Elke Dodt*

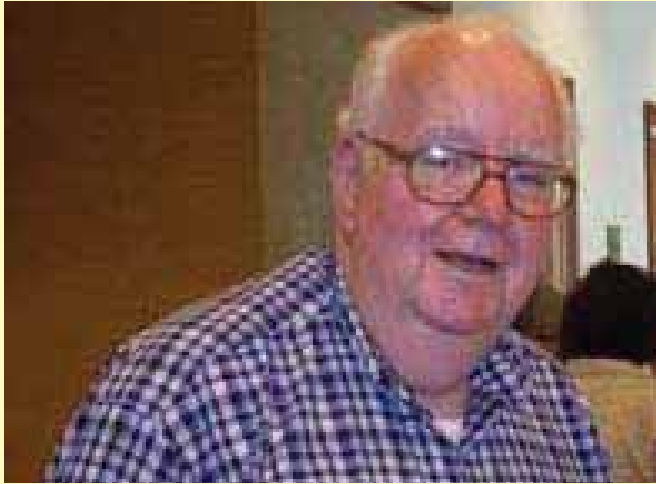


Congratulations to the prize-winner, Dr Zunda Luo, who is a PhD candidate who works with Prof Laura Frishman at the University of Houston, Texas. His award-winning presentation was entitled “Retinal pathway origins of the pattern ERG (PERG)”. Prior to his

PhD research, Dr Luo is a Board-certified ophthalmologist from China. Prior to his PhD research, he gained both a Bachelors and Masters of Medicine from the Shanghai Second Medical University.

Once again, the contributions to our Symposium by young scientists were impressive in both quality and volume. The ISCEV Adjudication Panel also selected two other young presenters to commend for their especially high quality of their presentations: Dr Charlotte M Poloschek (Freiburg, Germany) for her presentation, “Syndromic choroideremia – a possible approach to sublocalization of phenes associated with Martin–Probst deafness mental retardation syndrome” and James D Akula (Boston, USA) for his presentation, “A causal role for the rods in retinopathy of prematurity”. We thank the numerous judges for their careful scoring and especially Christina Gerth, Convener of the Adjudication Panel for relentlessly chasing all nooks and crannies to furnish the panel with complete information.

Emiko Adachi Award



Professor William W. Dawson's presentation for the Third Emiko Adachi Award "Maculas, monkeys, models, AMD, and aging" figuratively and literally rang a bell with the attendees of the 2007 XLV ISCEV symposium in Morgantown, West Virginia as he rang a real bell to emphasize the take-home messages during his talk. He described a two decade exploration of the visual world of the macaques of Cayo Santiago, Puerto Rico where they have lived in a closed inbred colony since 1938 and in a subset established at the University of Florida in 1994. The development of the infrastructure to support the research has, in itself, been a monumental undertaking. The colony provides a unique opportunity to examine genetic components of ocular diseases such as age-related macular degeneration in an animal with an eye, and with a macula, and with an age-related macular degeneration all very similar to that of man. In addition, the animals express

the macular degeneration in great enough frequency for scientific investigation (i.e., 70% of monkeys over 5 years old). The presence of lipid-engorged retinal pigment epithelial cells was found to be a more reliable sign than histologically proven drusen in the rhesus disease. A functional manifestation of the structural signs is that the rate of ERG recovery after a bleaching flash is slower in monkeys with drusen than in age-matched controls. An expanded version of the talk can be found in a recent paper (*Vis. Res.* 48:360-365, 2008) for those who did not attend the symposium.

Dr. Dawson has been an inspiration to many students who are members of ISCEV and an important contributor to ISCEV since 1971. He embodies the spirit of the Emiko Adachi Award. He was host of the XLIII ISCEV Symposium in Dorado, Puerto Rico in 2004 and co-host of the XXV ISCEV Symposium with Dr William R. Biersdorf in Sarasota, FL in 1987. He has served on the ISCEV Board of Directors as member-at-large (1995-1998) and as Vice President for the Americas (1999-2002). He was chief of the Electrodiagnostics Service in the Eye Clinic of Shands Teaching Hospital at the University of Florida from 1970 to 2004. He is the D in the DTL electrode which is frequently cited and used in electrophysiological investigation requiring an unobstructed visual axis. His progress has been slightly slowed by recent severe medical problems. He is meeting this challenge with his usual indomitable spirit. We all wish him recovery and hope to see him again at a future ISCEV symposium.

*Joseph M. Harrison, Ph. D.
June 17, 2009*

Report of the ISCEV online discussion group: CEVnet

CEVnet is the e-mail discussion group dedicated to Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision sponsored by ISCEV. New members of ISCEV are by default automatically enrolled, as are non-members upon request. Guidelines for participation may be found at the ISCEV web site.

Participants are encouraged to raise questions about CEV methodology, equipment, interpretation, even billing and coding issues. Interesting and especially perplexing cases are particularly encouraged, and often stimulate energetic and enlightening discussion. Announcements of available employment opportunities are always most welcome. CEVnet is also a good place to search for used or rare equipment, or to place offers to buy or sell an instrument. It may be a uniquely valuable resource for practitioners struggling with older instruments, especially those no longer supported by the manufacturer.

It is generally preferable to post images on a central server, and include links to the images in your message posted to CEVnet than to include the images in your message, which creates a very large CEVnet message and may disrupt our email server, or clog the in-boxes of our participants. Please contact me directly if you need assistance placing your images on a suitable server.

CEVnet is a "closed" list. Only messages sent from known participants' email addresses will be posted to the list. Please contact me directly with any requests to add, remove, or modify your email address on our server's master list. There is no objection to maintaining more than one email address, but in that case, posted messages will be sent to all active addresses.

*Scott E. Brodie, MD, PhD
Moderator, CEVnet
New York*

Upcoming Symposia



XLVIIIth ISCEV SYMPOSIUM, FREMANTLE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA Sunday 7th November – Thursday 11th November, 2010



Invitation: We are delighted to invite you to Perth, Western Australia's vibrant riverside capital, and its historic port city of Fremantle. ISCEV 2010 is timed to enjoy the best of our Mediterranean spring, amidst the beautiful, diverse and unique wildflowers, when maximum temperatures reach a pleasant 26°C.

Symposium Venue: The symposium will be held at the Esplanade Hotel on the corner of Marine Terrace and Essex Street in Fremantle. This iconic heritage listed building has recently been refurbished, making it a world class conference venue boasting luxurious four star accommodation. At the mouth of the Swan River, an area of cultural significance to our indigenous people, Fremantle holds a unique place in Western Australia's history, with a diverse mix of old and new, and the range of activities available for all ages is endless. Alternate hotel/motel/budget accommodation is located nearby.

Scientific Program: The two main themes for the symposium are "Electrophysiology, Genetics and Imaging in Retinal Disease" and "Stimulus Paradigms in Multifocal Electrophysiology". Embracing didactic lectures, free paper sessions, poster sessions, invited lectures and a clinical case session, the program aspires to engage all with an interest in vision. A one and a half day ISCEV course, including multifocal techniques, and possibly an additional course, is planned.

Hospitality and Social Program: We would like to share with you our multicultural blend of fine dining, beautiful beaches, wide open spaces and friendly outdoor lifestyle. Our half-day tour plans to showcase the beautiful wine growing region of the Swan Valley, taking in an aboriginal cultural centre, Australian wildlife park, wine, chocolate and cheese tastings, Australian bushland and to finish the evening, bushdancing beneath the Southern Cross. The accompanying persons program offers a range of both exciting, cultural and relaxing activities, including a day trip to Rottnest Island, exploring Fremantle and a Perth city tour for shopping and sight seeing.

Travel: Perth International Airport is 40 minutes drive from the symposium venue. It is serviced by most major airlines with direct flights from Dubai, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Singapore and Tokyo for travellers from Europe/Africa/Asia, while Sydney is our eastern gateway from the Americas.

Tours: Make your stay special and experience further the unique natural beauty of our land. You can visit the famous wine-growing region of Margaret River and nearby giant Karri forests, play with whale sharks and dolphins, explore spectacular coral reefs, gorges, caves and other natural wonders, ...

<http://www.experienceperth.com/>

<http://www.australiassouthwest.com/>

<http://www.australiasnorthwest.org.au/>

<http://www.australiascoralcoast.com/>

<http://www.australiasgoldenoutback.com/>

<http://westernaustralia.com/>



Conference Website: <http://www.promaco.com.au/2010/iscev/>

Invitation: Enid Chelva and The Visual Electrophysiology Team of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.