

ISCEV Newsletter 2003



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Masthead

The ISCEV Newsletter is published yearly on behalf of the ISCEV membership by Michael Bach, PhD, ISCEV Director of International Communications. It is simultaneously published on the web and on paper. Address of the ISCEV website: WWW.ISCEV.ORG.

To improve future newsletters, send your considered feedback to Michael Bach, michael.bach@uni-freiburg.de

President's Message



The 40th ISCEV, held in Leuven, Belgium, last year under the organization of Prof Werner Spileers and his team, was a great success. Leuven is a beautiful and peaceful city, the season was just perfect for our meeting, and I am sure many of you will agree with me that the city's beer is among the best in the world! The abstract book was beautifully produced, with many colour photographs. The scientific program of the meeting was also of a high level, and consisted of 2 invited lectures, 50 papers and 80 posters, altogether 130 presentations. There were almost 200

participants, with 160 registrants and 34 accompanying persons. On behalf of all attendees, I would like to congratulate and express our gratitude to Prof Spileers and his team.

The Eberhard Dodt Award, which was inaugurated in 1996, was presented to Dr Sharon Elizabeth Morong of Toronto. The theme of her research was "Visual function in infants with infantile spasms before and during Vigabatrin treatment". It constituted a significant advance in our understanding of the value of electrophysiology in this specialised area. The Award ceremony was performed during the banquet and Prof Dodt's widow, Mrs Elke Dodt, gave a speech to congratulate the recipient. I take this opportunity also to extend my congratulations to Dr Morong and her colleagues.

The main topics of the meeting were "Degenerative diseases of the posterior pole, including ARMD", and "Novel stimuli". The two main lectures were: (1) Orban G (Leuven, Belgium): Functional imaging of motion processing in human and non human primates. (2) Leys A (Leuven, Belgium): Degenerative diseases of the posterior pole including age-related maculopathy.

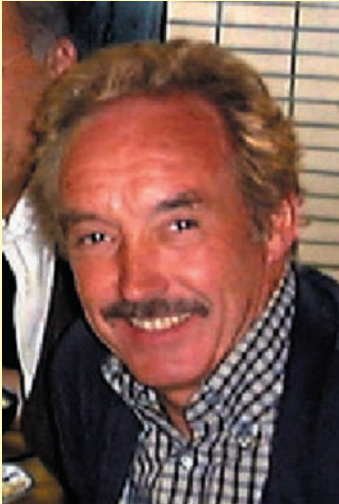
Let us now look back at the past year. First of all we need to thank the Secretary General, Prof Colin Barber, for his continuous devotion to supporting ISCEV. The Editor, Prof Vernon Odom, and the Treasurer, Prof Ulrich Kellner, both must be mentioned for their countless efforts in solving each problem as it arises, enabling the society to move forward. The new ISCEV communication system using the internet, made possible by Prof Michael Bach, is functioning flawlessly; the Clinical Case session organizing by Prof Micheal Marmor, and the CEVnet arranging by Dr Scott Brodie are providing interesting topics to our society. The pre-ARVO ISCEV organizing by Prof Richard Weleber has now become an important part of ARVO itself. The Society continues to grow with support and dedication of all these members; no words can express my appreciation and the pride I feel in our Society. We now have Dr Vaegan as a new Board Member and I am sure he will help us in many aspects, including increasing the membership in Australia. I must also congratulate Dr Nick Galloway on being chosen to be an Honorary Member; he not only gave great contributions to ISCEV's academic aspect, but he also served for many years on the Board and as Vice President for Europe/Africa. While thanking him for his years of dedication, I hope he will continue to give us guidance.

As I write this message, I am happy to inform you that we have completed almost all the organization of ISCEV 2003, to be held in Nagoya, and to let you know that we have many registrations. Despite the current world condition so many of my friends from abroad have registered to attend the meeting. When I became the ISCEV President, one of my missions was to increase the ISCEV membership from Asian countries. I am very pleased to find that, as a result, we have many attendees from several Asian countries this time. I believe ISCEV will expand even wider in Asia after the Nagoya ISCEV symposium.

My team and I are deeply grateful for this and I assure you we are giving all we have to organize a very meaningful meeting and we look forward to welcoming each and every one of you to Nagoya with the cherry blossoms in full bloom.

Yozo Miyake, MD, President of ISCEV

Secretary General's Message



Every four years we elect (or re-elect) a President for our society. This year is another of those years. Two altruistic individuals will share with us their vision of where ISCEV should be heading and invite us to give our support. Our votes will be based on these future visions just as much as on the past records of outstanding contributions to clinical electrophysiology of vision and outstanding records of commitment to ISCEV.

But perhaps, at these four-yearly intervals, each of us should be doing more than simply reviewing what's on offer from the two

candidates and deciding what fits best with our own views. Perhaps we should be making our own views known and helping shape ISCEV's goals for the next four years as well as helping achieve them.

Since I have the opportunity now, I'll try to do that to a limited extent, reflecting on some views that have been put to me, from time to time. As Secretary-General, I do get to hear peoples' views, though often (like upper and lower field VEPs) they are often of opposite polarity. "We are getting too clinical", or "We are not clinical enough" for example. However, "Our symposium is getting too expensive" is one that I hear sometimes, and it is never countered by anyone saying it is getting too cheap.

But is it too expensive? It's true, for sure, that the cost of attending our symposium is beyond the reach of many younger colleagues. This is inevitable for some people, for some of the time. As we move our meeting around the world to make it accessible to some, so it becomes relatively inaccessible to others. At least it goes around and we all have a "local" meeting every three years. We also try to provide a range of accommodation, though this is not always easy, or even possible.

Actually, there is little that can be done about travel or accommodation costs. But the registration fee – is that expensive? Well there is a perfectly respectable argument that says there is little point in having a cheap registration fee when travel and accommodation are already quite expensive – that is spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar (an old English expression from the days when we ruled the waves!). But I don't need to deploy that argument because, if you look at what is included in the registration fee, it is NOT expensive, not ever. Compare our registration fees with those of other scientific meetings and you will find that they are about the same, but our fee includes everything and the others include little or nothing. Sometimes not even the coffee break; rarely lunches; never dinners; never even an excursion. Not even a hint of an Olympics competition, with its glittering prizes! These things are important. First, they help engender the family spirit that is so special in ISCEV; second, they help the more junior members of our society since a registration fee is generally covered by a grant or study leave expenses, whereas dinners and so on are not.

Just to put things properly in context, let me tell you about a flyer I had recently for a meeting here in England. Billed as "a block of four practical and energizing workshops" and lasting two days, this conference on "Managing People in the Modern NHS" has a registration fee of £1200 (\$1800).

But when all that's said and done, we do go to some nice places, interesting places, sometimes a little bit remote places. We do need to take care that we don't become a "rich old men's travel club", as one rich old travelling man put it to me.

If ISCEV were an airline, we would definitely be a traditional "all the frills" flag-carrier type of airline. Should we try to turn ourselves into a budget carrier, more in tune with the times? For me, the answer is definitely no. To push the analogy a little bit further, the major saving the budget carriers make is in paying the flight crew significantly less, but this option is not open to us since we don't pay our "flight crew" – the elected officers – anything anyway. Nor our gracious hosts who organise our symposia. And as I've explained above, the marginal cost of our "frills" is low and they are important in defining our character.

However, we can perhaps get some further mileage from this airline analogy. My local airline (British Midland, bmi) has started a low-cost subsidiary (bmi baby). They co-exist. In Britain, we are trying to do the same with our BriSCEV meeting – keeping it simple, providing basic accommodation and, because it's expected that people will only travel from relatively nearby, keeping travel costs low too. I hesitate to claim originality here; the ISCEV@ARVO meeting does just the same in a slightly different way, and it's highly successful. Perhaps we'll be going a little bit further in that the BriSCEV meeting can save on publicity costs by "code-sharing" with the IPEM – the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, under which auspices a precursor meeting was organised in York last year (cf Graham Harding's European report).

These are all additional ventures; they rely upon the existing ISCEV structure, they rely upon the existing ISCEV family spirit. It is unlikely they would survive as independent entities. My point is that we must recognise changing realities in the world outside, but we must also recognise what is good and special about our society and build upon it to cope with those changing realities in the future. My feeling is that there is much to build on and further opportunities out there, particularly in cooperation with other societies.

My larger point is that we all have our ideas on how our society should evolve to meet the challenges of the future. I have taken the opportunity to discuss just one aspect here. You, too, have access to these pages – why not write a piece about your own ideas for the future? It's not just the prerogative of putative Presidents.

But don't neglect to cast your vote for our new president.

Colin Barber, PhD, Secretary-General

Elections

The results of elections in 2002 are:

Member at large:

Vaegan

Site of the 2005 symposium:

Glasgow, organized by Daphne McCulloch

ISCEV Treasurer's Report

The accompanying spreadsheet displays an overview on ISCEV's financial situation. Please note:

1. The 2002 financial year ranges from 10 January 2002 to 15 February 2003. This is due to the transition of treasurers accounts on 10 January 2002. In addition, as several payments for 2002 are made in the beginning of 2003, it appears reasonable to end the financial year on 15 February of each year.

2. The membership dues income includes both membership fees from 2002 and 2003. This is due to the late invoice for the 2002 membership dues.

3. About half of the account is held in EURO. The conversion in the spreadsheet was done at the time of the payment. Due to the variability of exchange rates within the last year, there may be some variations between the EURO account and its calculated US\$ equivalent.

4. The teaching course account is held separately.

I appreciate that most members by now pay their membership fees by credit card, this is by far the most cost effective way. Fast work-up of incoming invoices and immediate confirmation of payment is the goal of the treasurers office, please do not hesitate to contact me in case of problems (kellneru@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

Ulrich Kellner, MD, ISCEV Treasurer

	US\$	US\$	US\$
Transferred Accounts from Japan (10. Jan 2002)			
USD Account	82.568,44		
YEN Account (converted to 82.112,40 €)	73.080,04		
Sum			155.648,48
Income (10. Jan 2002-15. Feb 2003)			
Membership dues 2002 & 2003	49.216,68		
Symposium income (Mont Orford)	4.600,00		
Bank account interests	3.140,64		
Sum		56.957,32	
Outstanding Income 2003 (estimated)			
Open Membership dues 2002 & 2003	18.000,00		
Symposium return of advance payment (Leuven)	6.439,80		
Symposium income (Leuven)	5.000,00		
Sum		29.439,80	
Total Income			86.397,12
Expenditure (10. Jan 2002-15. Feb 2003)			
Check handling fees, Bank charges	489,24		
Credit card handling fees	2.190,34		
Secretary General office 2001	4.354,00		
Secretary General office 2002	5.958,31		
Editors office 2001	4.800,00		
Editors office 2002	5.000,00		
Treasurers office 2002	1.500,00		
Web Information 2002	122,01		
Newsletter printing	2.533,01		
Kluwer Publisher 2002	31.152,53		
Advance payment Leuven	6.439,80		
Sum		64.539,24	
Outstanding Liabilities 2003 (estimated)			
Check handling fees, Bank charges	500,00		
Credit card handling fees	2.000,00		
Secretary General office 2003	6.000,00		
Editors office 2003	5.000,00		
Treasurers office 2003	2.000,00		
Web Information 2003	500,00		
Kluwer Publisher 2003	40.000,00		
Symposium deposit (Puerto Rico)	10.000,00		
Travel grants 2003	2.700,00		
Abstract books printing and mailing	2.000,00		
Newsletter mailing	2.000,00		
Sum		72.700,00	
Total Expenditure			137.239,24
Teaching Account			
Teaching course account transfer	11.377,39		
Expenditure	-353,60		
Sum		11.023,79	
Total Assets (as of 15. Feb 2003)			
USD Account	82.444,98		
EURO Account	89.176,41		
Teaching Account	11.023,79		
Secretary General Account	9.640,79		
Sum Total Assets			192.285,97

ISCEV Standards

Report from the Director of Standards

ISCEV presently has two Standards (VEP and ERG) in the process of revision and updating, and a number of members have already sent in comments or suggestions. The core writing committees are working hard on final proposals, with the hope that we can approve the new versions in Nagoya.

It will be difficult to tackle major questions or concerns at the meeting, when time is short. Thus, if any of you are particularly interested in one or the other of these documents you should correspond with the appropriate committee chair BEFORE Nagoya to receive drafts as they are written, and to raise any issues for discussion and resolution. We will be happy to circulate the working drafts to interested members, as long as they will return comments promptly! More details on the content of the revisions are given below.

VEP STANDARD: contact Vernon Odom (jodom@wvu.edu)

The VEP Standard is undergoing rather major restructuring, as it has become apparent that it is not feasible to standardize all of the many variations on VEP recording that are in use around the world for different indications. Rather than expand the existing list of standards, the Committee has elected to reduce the Standard to a very basic core of responses that are recorded from only one site (theinion) and with the most readily available stimuli (flash, pattern reversal or pattern on-off). These core responses give useful information about most diseases for which VEPs are recorded, and if they become incorporated into VEP protocols world-wide, they will generate a common body of information that can be compared and shared effectively.

The picture (courtesy A. Patricia Tormene) shows the VEP standard committee hard at work in Leuven



ERG STANDARD: contact Mike Marmor (marmor@stanford.edu)

So far, we have not recognized any new changes or additions that are so universally accepted that they should be mandated as Standard. There is increasing interest in using (or adding) a stronger flash than the present Standard Flash (1-3 cd·s/m²), since a number of labs feel it gives better a-wave resolution and recognition of negative waveforms. And of course, very high intensity flashes can be used to recognize photoreceptor characteristics as described by Hood and Birch. We are considering mention of these in an addendum as promising trends, but would not require their usage yet as "Standards."

Michael F. Marmor, MD, ISCEV Director of Standards

Regional reports

AMERICAS

The Western Hemisphere Division of the ISCEV meeting, also known as ISCEV@ARVO, was held 4 May 2002, at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, 1900 S.E. 17th Street Causeway, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Carolyn Weleber served as the Administrative Associate in charge of organizing the conference. Drs Richard Weleber and Bill Dawson chaired the sessions. Ninety-seven participants from around the world attended. The first session of the afternoon was devoted to "Multifocal ERG & VEP, ERG Components and Techniques, and Clinical Disease". The second session focused on "Electrophysiology in Clinical Disease, Animal Models, and Other Topics". Eighteen presentations were given during the two afternoon sessions. The dinner which followed was attended by members and guests. This was the third year for which ISCEV@ARVO was held at the Convention Center and both the meeting and dinner were held in the spacious new Palm A and B rooms. Everyone expressed support to continue having the meeting at this site.

The 2003 ISCEV@ARVO meeting will be held Saturday afternoon, 1:00 – 6:00 PM, 3 May, at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, 1900 S.E. 17th Street Causeway, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Free parking will be available in the same structure used for the ARVO meeting. Following the scientific sessions, a gourmet buffet dinner is planned for the participants and their guests at the Convention Center. Please contact Carolyn Weleber, at 503/494-8386 or by email (weleberc@ohsu.edu), for further details.

This will be my last year as Secretary for the Americas. It was with great regret that I have informed President Miyake and Secretary General Barber that I intend to resign from the office of Secretary for the Americas following the organization and arrangement of this year's ISCEV@ARVO. Having the meeting held at the Convention Center should facilitate the transfer of this responsibility to the next ISCEV member elected to the office and, of course, we will certainly help to ease the transition.

Carolyn and I thank all of you who have expressed appreciation for the organization of the past meetings and look forward to seeing you in the future.

Richard G. Weleber, MD, Secretary for the Americas

ASIA-AUSTRALIA

The 50th annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision was held at Chiba as a "Joint Symposium of the 50th Meeting of Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision and the 12th World Congress of Retina International" from 2 to 4 August 2002, organized by Prof Adachi-Usami at Chiba University.

Participants were 320 doctors and researchers and 970 of patients in this meeting. Thirty four free papers were given on August 2 and 12 symposiums in English and 3 symposiums in Japanese were given on 3 and 4 August. Many ISCEV members from Europe and USA participated in those symposia.

The 51st annual meeting will be held in Nagoya in April as a joint symposium with ISCEV.

Atsushi Mizota, MD, Secretary for Asia and Australia

EUROPE

Following a very successful "Recent Developments in Ophthalmic Electrophysiology" meeting organised in York UK in June 2002 by ISCEV member Robert Royall, many members who attended felt that this should be a yearly event.

A formal chapter, BriSCEV, was approved by the Board in 2002 and the first meeting of the new chapter is planned for September 2003. The two day meeting will take place on the 1–2 September in Nottingham. It is intended that this will be a European meeting covering the whole geographical region and certainly not restricted to what our General Secretary calls "the off-shore islands"!

Nottingham is close to East Midlands Airport, practically the home of low-cost airlines so cheap and convenient travel is available from many European cities. It is intended to keep costs as low as possible using university overnight accommodation to encourage young research workers to attend.

It is of course being organised by the indefatigable Colin Barber who promises to make it a fun event as well. Having experienced many of Colin's meetings I am sure he will find some appropriate informal Nottingham entertainment for the evening!

There will be invited lectures and reviews as well as practical items given by senior clinicians and scientists present and free papers. Poster sessions are aimed to give another airing to posters shown at other international meetings during the preceding year.

Everyone spoke highly of the 2002 XXXX symposium in Belgium which I was unfortunately unable to attend after the date was changed. This was a great personal regret as the first ISCEV symposium I ever attended was also in Ghent many years ago.

We are delighted that Glasgow has been selected for the XXXXIII symposium and it was a shame that the other contender was also in my area. I wanted to vote for both! I hope that our African continent colleagues will try again.

Graham Harding, PhD, Vice-president Europe

Future Symposia

2004

The XXXXIIth ISCEV Symposium will take place in Puerto Rico, organized by WW Dawson and is scheduled for 14–18 November 2004

2005

The XXXXIIIth ISCEV Symposium will be organised by Daphne McCulloch and co-workers in Glasgow, UK

For 2006 we have an offer from Subhadra Jalali, MD, for Hyderabad, India

Meeting minutes

Minutes of the membership meeting 15.30, Friday 19 July, 2002, Maria Theresia College, Leuven, Belgium

1. Opening by the President

The meeting is opened at 15.30 by the President, Professor Miyake. 75 members are present.

2. Minutes of the 2001 meeting

The minutes of the 2001 Membership Meeting are accepted as a true record and signed as such by the President. There are no matters arising.

3. Report of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General (Professor Barber) presents his report for 2001, which has been published in the Newsletter. There are no matters arising from it.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer (Professor Kellner) says that the report for 2001 has been published in the Newsletter. It was compiled by Professor Adachi, and relates to her last year as Treasurer. He thanks Professor Adachi for it. There are no matters arising from it.

The Treasurer goes on to inform the meeting that the new arrangements for paying dues by credit card are now fully in place. Dues can be paid using Amex, Mastercard or Visa.

5. Report of the Editor

The Editor (Dr Odom) gives his annual report, which has been published in the Newsletter.

The question is raised of providing help in writing to members whose first language is not English. The Secretary-General (Professor Barber) points out that it was agreed at last year's meeting that the Editor shall recruit such a panel to help deserving authors. However, this had not yet been implemented due to pressures of problems with the journal. He will seek to ensure that this is formed.

6. Publication Contract for Documenta Ophthalmologica

The Secretary-General reports he has conducted negotiation with Kluwer as agreed at last year's meeting. Kluwer have made a very good offer to ISCEV as a result of these negotiations and this has been agreed by the Board, on a one year's trial. From 1 January 2003 there will be a new, larger, format and each issue will contain more pages, thus addressing the back-log problem. Measures have already been put in place to solve the distribution problems and they appear to be working.

As an indication of good faith, a senior representative of Kluwer (Mr Peter Butler) is present at the meeting. He answers general queries during the meeting and remains to deal with individual problems afterwards.

7. Elections

The Secretary-General announces that the proposal to change the Bye-laws may affect the election process, so he asks the meeting to take this item out of order.

8. Proposals to change the Bye-laws

The Secretary explains the motivation behind the proposals to create three new Board positions (Director of Education, Director of International Communication, Director of Standards) and to cease (through natural wastage) the three Regional Secretary positions, thus keeping the size of the Board the same. Full details are given in the papers for the meeting, in the Symposium Programme/Abstracts Book.

The Secretary-General asks to take the proposal 2 first. This is to eliminate the three Regional Secretary positions. Dawson speaks in opposition to the proposal, saying that it decreases the honour accorded to regional representatives and suggesting that the three new positions be created without ceasing the three old ones. Marmor points out that the Board, already in the process of being enlarged by three members as a result of an earlier proposal by Dawson, is already very large and would become unwieldy. Barber points out that the duties of the "Regional" officers (Vice-president and Secretary) are considerably less than those of the "working" positions proposed and could easily be handled by one person; further that the new Board Member-at-Large positions have regional constraints, so there will still be two persons representing each region. The proposal goes to a vote, with the following outcome:

For: 32 votes; Against: 21 votes; Abstentions: 14

Thus the proposal has a majority, but not the two-thirds necessary to effect a change in the Bye-laws. The proposal is lost. The Secretary-General announces that the wording of proposal 1 (implementation) is such that it cannot be done without the above motion, and withdraws it.

9. Elections

The President announces that elections are needed for the following Board positions:

9.1 Vice-president (Americas) – Position vacated by Dawson, having served one term. Dawson has declined to stand for a second term on health grounds. This vacancy will now be publicised and nominations invited, in the usual way.

9.2 Member-at-Large – Position vacated by Holder who is eligible for re-election, having served one term.

The President presents Holder as the Board's candidate, and asks if there are further nominations from the floor. There are none. In the absence of the candidate, the meeting votes. Holder is elected nem con.

9.3 Member-at-Large – Position vacated by Wu, who is not eligible for re-election, having served two terms.

The Secretary-General explains that under the change to the Bye-laws approved last year, this must be filled by a candidate from the Asia/Australia region.

The President (Professor Miyake) presents the Board's candidate, Dr Subhadra Jalali (India), and asks if there are further nominations from the floor. Prof Arden proposes Dr Vaegan (Australia). Prof Adachi proposes Prof Horiguchi (Japan). Professor Bach speaks for the Board in favour of Dr Jalali, Professor Arden speaks in favour of Dr Vaegan, Professor Adachi speaks in favour of Professor Horiguchi. It goes to a ballot.

The result is that the order of the candidates, in number of votes cast is: Dr Jalali; Dr Vaegan; Professor Horiguchi.

Each of the top two candidates has the requisite > 50% of the individual votes cast, and so Jalali and Vaegan will go forward to a mail ballot of all members eligible to vote.

9.4 Secretary (Europe/Africa) – Position vacated by Kellner, having become Treasurer

This vacancy will now be publicised and nominations invited, in the usual way.

10. Future Symposia

10.1 – 2003

Professor Miyake reminds the meeting that this symposium will be in Nagoya, Japan. The dates are 1-5 April, when it is hoped the sakura will be in bloom. The topics are:

- Multifocal Responses from the Visual Pathways
- Night-blinding Disorders: Animal models and Clinical Investigation

10.2 – 2004 (XLII Symposium del Sol)

Professor Dawson reminds the meeting that this symposium will be in Puerto Rico. The dates are 14 - 18 November, when the climate is beautiful and the prices reasonable. The topics are:

- Origins of signals in Vision
- Image Processing in Visual Processing

10.3 – 2005

Presentations are made by Ulrich Kellner (Berlin), Wahiga Massoud (Cairo) and Daphne McCulloch (Glasgow), followed by voting. The outcome of the voting is that Glasgow and Cairo will go forward to a mail ballot of all members eligible to vote.

11. Standards and Guidelines

11.1 – Acceptance of Calibration Guidelines

Mitch Brigell describes the progress made since last year and proposes that the final draft, achieved at the working breakfast, be approved for publication. This is agreed by a large majority.

11.2 – VEP Standard

Vernon Odom informs the membership that work has begun anew on the VEP standard and it is expected that it will be ready for presentation to the meeting next year.

12 Report of the Symposium Organiser

Prof Werner Spileers reports that the meeting has been well-attended (160 participants) with 50 oral and 77 poster presentations. Also oral pre-presentations for the posters have been tried for the first time. He is thanked by the President for all his hard worked and applauded by the meeting for his success.

13. Items from the Board Meeting

Professor Colin Barber proposes on behalf of the Board that Mr NR Galloway be elected an Honorary Member of the society, and speaks in support of the proposal, pointing out the many achievements of Nick Galloway in the field of ophthalmology and of his great service to ISCEV. There is voting by show of hands with the result that the proposal is carried unanimously.

14. Any Other Business

Reinhard Grossman asks whether there is any possibility that ISCEV will undertake accreditation of equipment compliance with ISCEV Standards.

Colin Barber replies that this has been discussed before and though the feeling was in favour in principle, it represents a heavy commitment and there were doubts about the ability of ISCEV capacity to carry it out. He promises to put the suggestion before the Board at its next meeting.

15. Closing of the meeting

The meeting is closed at 17.25.

Colin Barber, PhD, Secretary-General

Recollections of a Conference

The summer of 2002 has been really a memorable one for the organising committee of the 40th ISCEV symposium in Leuven (Belgium). A small group of great collaborators managed to host the ISCEV family during its Symposium and the preceding Course. I realize that their full commitment was the key to success for this symposium. I think that many participants had the feeling that all went smoothly; at some moments however this was only the external appearance, since at the same moment yet another problem was solved at the back scene.

The Course and the Symposium were held in the very city centre of Leuven. I hope that the environment was scientifically and socially inspiring for many of you. On Monday, 15 July the Course started and was attended by the large number of 46 participants. Seven companies made it possible that so many interested people had the opportunity to participate in the practical sessions. I had the opportunity to attend some of the lectures and was impressed by the high standard of the teaching faculty under the supervision of our excellent Director of Education Graham Holder. On Monday evening, the dinner for the course participants and the teaching faculty in restaurant "De Nachtuil" (The Night Owl!) showed a first glance of our Bourgundian style of tasting food and drinks.

The symposium started on Tuesday evening with the welcome reception in the Town Hall; some of you must have heard the carillon concert from the Sint Pieters Church while visiting the prestigious Town Hall.

One hundred and seventy participants, and 25 accompanying persons attended the symposium. Twenty-nine countries were represented. Fifty oral presentations over 8 sessions and 87 posters in two sessions were presented. Invited lectures by Guy Orban and Anita Leys were highly appreciated. Ten company booths were present and nine companies sponsored the organisation financially.

We all have realised once more that organising in high summer is not a guarantee for dry weather in Belgium. The Olympics and outdoor Feast, Flemish style had a very wet start but this could not disturb the ISCEV ambiance. Visits to Antwerpen and to Brussels and Brugge by the accompanying persons tried to show some of the best at present and in the history of Flanders.

The closing ceremony in the Great Beguinage however will remain full of secrets: due to heavy rain during just these three hours an outdoor farewell light and sound ceremony had to be cancelled. This we plan to offer you in the next organisation of ISCEV in Belgium (?).

During that evening the Eberhardt Dodt Award was attributed by Frau Dodt to once more an excellent and promising young researcher: Dr Morong.



Werner Spileers and family, during the farewell banquet

Another ISCEV tradition most probably has started that evening: the "official" ISCEV flag was handed over to our ISCEV President and organiser of the 41st ISCEV symposium, Prof Miyake. In this way I will in some way be present in Nagoya; academic and clinical duties unfortunately make it impossible to be there with the ISCEV family.

For all of you who were in Leuven, I really hope you had a splendid time. After six months now, we ourselves realise that we had the privilege organising this symposium for the ISCEV family, for which I personally have a great admiration.

Greetings from Leuven,

Werner Spileers, Jeroen Baldewijns, Hans Kayart, Christy Lacroix, Brecht Spileers, Kristiaan Triaui, Gerrit Van den Breede, Lidwine Van Malderen, Liliane Verhille, Marlene Verlaeck

The images on this and the facing page were kindly provided by Colin Barber, Malcom Brown, Reinhard Grossmann, the Symposium Team and Michael Bach.



The man himself fixed the poster – before (left) and after (right)



The symposium team before the symposium



Beautiful Leuven town centre



The Symposium Site



Handwaving from the American Team



The European Team



Stilting, one of the new ISCEV Olympics disciplines



Daphne McCulloch, blissfully unaware (yet) that she will organize the 2005 symposium



The beautiful site of the farewell banquet



The symposium team at the last evening

Eberhard Dodt Award 2002

Most honoured Prizewinner,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

This year, at the ISCEV Symposium in Leuven, is the seventh occasion at which the award of the Eberhard Dodt Prize takes place, a prize founded to support young scientists whose research lies in the field of Ophthalmic Clinical Electrophysiology. This prize could not have been created without the capital fund to which colleagues and former pupils of my husband so generously contributed. It is their generosity that has inspired me to do whatever lies within my powers to ensure that the financial basis for the future continuance of this prize can be secured.

In the year 2000, when the prize was awarded in Sydney, I was able to organise a benefit concert in Bad Nauheim. Although considerable difficulties lie ahead, I have undertaken to organise a similar concert in 2003. It is to take place on 22nd February, which would have been my husband's eightieth birthday. Furthermore, it is certainly appropriate to recall that 2003 is to be the „European Year of Handicapped People“, in other words of those people for whom medical research seeks to provide help.

It is a great pleasure to announce that several musicians have already agreed to perform. They include the Japanese eye specialist and concert pianist, Professor Dr Mariko Mitsuyu, a former member of my husband's research team. Her talents as a keyboard virtuoso made a great impression on the audience at the benefit concert in 2000. There is still a great deal of preparatory work to do, but I look forward to this very much – and, of course, I have high hopes that it will be a success.

The political events of the past year and of the present year have demonstrated to us all once again, with brutal clarity, how necessary it is to overcome frontier barriers and to foster mutual understanding between people of differing religions, social customs and cultures. There are many ways in which such undertakings of conquering disease or at least of improving the condition of those who are afflicted by illness, can play a leading role in this endeavour. „More research – better sight“ was chosen as the motto for our first benefit concert and this will be the motto of the second as well. Music knows no frontiers – nor does scientific co-operation. All that is needed is the will.

With these words I turn to you, Ms Sharon Morong. Your research work has been selected by the jury out of many pieces of research, all excellent, as being particularly deserving of this prize. It is with my warmest best wishes that I now present to you the Eberhard Dodt Prize for the year 2002. I trust that it may act as an inspiration for your future scientific research, which should bring you yourself and medical research as a whole further success. There is a German saying „Nothing is good – unless one does it“. To carry out research with the aim of counteracting reduced vision or blindness is indeed something good.

Elke Dodt



Dr Carol Westall provides some background on her student:

Ms Sharon Morong came to Canada from Trinidad and Tobago in 1998 to study. After completing an honours BSc in Human Biology, she was accepted into a Masters program of the Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto and joined the collaborative program in neuroscience. She joined Dr Carol Westall's lab 10 months ago and gave her first international presentation at this year's ISCEV symposium, at the age of 22 years.

This achievement exemplifies Sharon's innovation, determination, creativity and critical thinking. We witnessed at the ISCEV 2002 meeting that she is a superb communicator and powerful speaker.

Before Sharon began her work with children with infantile spasms her interest in seizure disorders had been sparked by a basic science research project using an animal model of epilepsy to study the protective effects of an adrenal steroid precursor hormone, deoxycorticosterone, in developing rats.

Sharon now conducts clinical research investigating the effects of an anti-convulsant drug, vigabatrin on the developing visual systems of infants with infantile spasms. Her work thus far has produced groundbreaking results, showing primary visual deficits in these infants even before they begin vigabatrin treatment.

The quality she brings to science complements her life outside the laboratory. She enjoys indoor rock climbing and has a particular passion and talent for dance.

Her poise presence and sense of play enable Sharon to gain the trust and attention of the surliest teenager or crankiest baby.

Sharon's ultimate goal is medicine. We look forward to her continued contribution as a clinician scientist.

Carol Westall, PhD

Documenta Ophthalmologica – Case Reports

Request for Submissions

The editors of Documenta Ophthalmologica, the official journal of ISCEV, have initiated a new section devoted to Case Reports, and I have agreed to serve as the Case Reports Editor. ISCEV members and readers of Documenta are encouraged to submit descriptions of informative or instructive cases for rapid peer-review, and publication. Reports of single cases, or a small number of related cases, will be considered for the Case Reports section. While novel cases are of course desirable, cases which tell a story of unusual clinical or diagnostic interest, and cases which illustrate the role of electrophysiological

and psychophysical methods with particular clarity are welcome. Well-documented cases of unusual manifestations of disease, or of rare conditions, are also suitable.

Cases which have appeared on CEVnet may well be suitable for the Case Reports section, and are actively encouraged. Case reports may be submitted via the Editor of Documenta, or directly to Scott Brodie. Email submissions are welcome.

*Scott E. Brodie, MD, PhD; Associate Editor, Case Reports,
Documenta Ophthalmologica; scott.brodie@mssm.edu*

ISCEV Editor's Report

For some time I and others have felt the editorial board of needed additional structure. For example, the Orford meeting hosted the first editorial board meeting in a number of years. To begin to give the editorial board additional structure, the editorial board to be restructured this past year in Leuven. As a first step in that restructuring process, we now have an editor in chief and three Associate Editors one representing each of the three major regions of ISCEV. The three associate editors and myself selected a new editorial board consisting of many former members and many new members to the board. During the next year the Associate Editors and I will develop a set of by-laws for the editorial board, which we will submit to the ISCEV board for approval. I present the new organization below:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Editor-in-Chief	J. Vernon Odom	West Virginia University Eye Institute
Associate Editor for the Americas:	Scott Brodie	Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
Associate Editor for Asia	Mineo Kondo	Nagoya University School of Medicine
Associate Editor for Europe and Africa	Michael Bach	University Eye Clinic, Freiburg
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	Alma Patrizia Tormene	Padova University
	Gary Trick	Henry Ford Health Sciences Center
	Vaegen	Visiontest Australia
	Richard Weleber	Casey Eye Institute
	Carol Westall	Toronto University
	Shuichi Yamamoto	Toho University Sakura Hospital
	Eberhart Zrenner	Tübingen University Eye Hospital, Dept. II

This year ISCEV renegotiated its affiliation with Kluwer. As the contract has not been signed at the time of me writing this report, February 2003, some aspects of the report may be altered by those negotiations.

In 2000, 2001, and 2002 we succeeded in filling 6 issues. We shall do so again in 2003. During 2002, the number of manuscript submission increased to 52. This represents the third consecutive year that we have had 44 or more manuscripts submitted as regular articles. Fifty-two submissions is somewhat short of our goal of 60 manuscript submissions per year. However, when we include our special issues we have more than enough quality manuscripts to fill our journal issues in 2003.

The average time between our receiving a manuscript and our sending out a letter informing the authors of the initial results of the review process is currently slightly more than 4 weeks. On average, we are able to make a final decision on manuscripts within two months (actually 5 weeks if we include many of our rejections). Once the contract is signed, most if not all manuscript review processes will be handled via email through Kluwer. We hope that this will streamline the process even more.

We currently have a backlog of articles. Consequently, there may be a considerable delay between the time articles have been accepted for publication and the time that they are actually published. The positive side to this difficulty is that it demonstrates that we are able to maintain a steady stream of quality manuscripts. Dr Barber used this knowledge in his negotiations with Kluwer to increase the journal size. Therefore, the potential delays will be reduced over the next year. The down side of this is that we will need more quality articles to fill those journal pages.

Summary Statistics on Documenta Ophthalmologica: 1998 – 2001

Period (Submitted)	1998	1999	2000	2001*	2002
Total Regular Submissions	30	34	44	44	52
Accepted	25	19	30	35	20
Rejected	3	1	3	4	14
Rejected / Total	10%	3%	8%	9%	26.9%
Still under review	1	14	11	4	17
Withdrawn	1	0	1	1	1
Special Issue Articles Accepted	12	12	15	30	16
Special Issue Articles Under Review	—	—	—	—	0
Total Accepted Articles	47	19	19	65	36
Time for Initial* Review (weeks)	12	11	17	10	4
Time for Decision* (weeks)	19	15	34	13	7

*Represents time from receipt by editor to decision by editor

*Transition from publisher controlled reviews to editor-controlled reviews

Table 2. Manuscript Status January 2003

Under Initial Review:	7
Out for Revision:	15
Accepted:	14 (no proofs received)
Accepted: Waiting for publication:	30 (proofs received)
Rejected (following review)	3
Rejected (not sent for review)	9
Withdrawn	0
Special issues:	Niemeyer: Festschrift Issue: ~8 articles Peachey & Lachapelle: Genetics ~8 articles Brecelj & Lachapelle: Development ~8 articles Spileers Special Issue 1: 8-10 articles Brigell & Zrenner: Special Issue

Because of the large backlog of articles, we have been more selective in accepting articles in 2002. There have been an unusually large number of rejections this year. This reflects an increasing quality of accepted articles. Our reviewers are becoming more selective. However, there were also an unusually large number of articles submitted which were unrelated to visual electrophysiology or even visual function; these were rejected without going through a full review process.

Documenta Ophthalmologica lost its impact factor in 2001 and does not currently have an impact factor. Kluwer has re-submitted their in-

formation to ISI and is awaiting word on ISI's decision about reinstating an impact factor for the journal.

One thing that has made the journal work better is that you have contacted us when you thought that there might be problems with manuscripts. I encourage you to continue to do so. As always, you may send such comments either by regular or email to me, jodom@wvu.edu, or to the managing editor, Ms. Karen Murray, kmurray@hsc.wvu.edu.

*J. Vernon Odom, PhD, jodom@wvu.edu
Editor Documenta Ophthalmologica*

Education Director's Report

The annual ISCEV Teaching Course took place on 15 – 16 July 2002, just before the 40th ISCEV Symposium in Leuven, Belgium. The Course was well attended by 44 participants, and was judged by them to be a great success. The teaching faculty comprised Drs Bach, Hogg, Holder, Hood, Marmor, Weleber and Zrenner. Dr Seeliger kindly assisted with the practicum. The assistance of local organiser Dr Spileers and his team is gratefully acknowledged. The next ISCEV Course will be held in Nagoya, Japan, immediately prior to the main ISCEV Meeting. At this stage, it is not intended that there will be a Course in association with the 2004 meeting in Puerto Rico, but discussion is taking place regarding the possible holding of the Course in India.



ISCEV approved Courses were run in Berlin, by Dr Kellner, and at Moorfields. There were 21 participants for the annual Course in Berlin, and the teaching faculty were Drs Bach, Foerster, Kellner, Lapp and Rütther. The annual Moorfields Electrophysiology of Vision Course recently took place with 36 registrants. The faculty comprised Drs Arden, Barber, Bird, Fitzke, Francis, Hogg, Holder, Leroi, Niemeyer, Robson and Thompson.

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 prior to publicising their Course as ISCEV approved.

Graham E Holder, PhD, Director of Education

The neighbouring picture shows our Education Director himself demonstrating correct skin preparation "rub brief, but hard" during the Leuven ISCEV course (photo provided by the organizers).

How veterinarians can contribute to ISCEV

Some words on history

The statement in the title could be interpreted as presumptuous if veterinary ophthalmology was at its beginning. However the first document in veterinary ophthalmology, an hieroglyph from the ancient Egypt which mentions a *horse doctor* examining an eye, dates back 3000 years BC. The first *Traité des maladies des yeux chez le cheval* was edited in 1824 by Urbain Leblanc and the first *Traité d'ophtalmologie comparée des animaux domestiques* was edited by Eugène Nicolas in 1896, both were veterinarians <<http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr>>. Furthermore, animal ERGs were first reported in the 19th century (Holmgren 1865, Dewar 1877), that is long before reports of the first human ERG.

Current situation

Teaching and education

In all countries, veterinary education was separated from human medicine. In fact, even if the applications to become a veterinarian are different according to the different countries [numerous *clausus* in France (325 vets every year) while other EC countries produce thousands vets], all received a basic clinical education in every animals species. Thus, veterinarians are trained clinicians throughout the world and used to work on various animal species. Furthermore, various teaching programs in ophthalmology (especially in electrophysiology) are proposed by human medicine schools to veterinarians.

Relationship between human and veterinary ophthalmology

In the 20th century, the development of the human ophthalmology also served veterinary ophthalmology. For example, the procedure to codify cataract extraction using phacoemulsification, myopic correction using an excimer laser, or the implantation of foldable and injectable intraocular lenses in dogs were published in 1987, 1995 and 1999 respectively. Finally, the first guidelines for clinical electroretinography in the dog were published in 2002.

Experimental ophthalmology

Concomitantly, in several experiments, animals are used by researchers who are not veterinarians. Among veterinarians who have decided to specialize in ophthalmology, some of them, after PhD studies, are also involved in research, particularly in pharmacology, toxicology and electrophysiology.

Thanks to their “global view” of the animal including their knowledge of various species, veterinarians contribute for a large part in comparative ophthalmology. They have also the need and the opportunity to perform histological examinations both during their training and after-

wards. This can explain why a lot of veterinarians are also employed by companies for anatomo-pathology assessments especially in comparative histo-pathology.

Conclusion

Veterinarians are the specialists of animals due to their education (clinical) and various specialities including functional explorations and necropsy. Given their broad formation, they have all necessary skills to collaborate with ISCEV members who will profit from their global “view” of the animal, their knowledge of the animal management (contention, anaesthesia, etc.), as well as their knowledge of the comparative anatomo-physiology and comparative histology of the different animal species. Veterinarians form a “natural” link between clinical, physiological and histological animals knowledge. Even more, a lot of them are members of ethical committees for the respect of the animal welfare in regulatory studies.

Serge G. Rosolen, DVM, PhD, Asnières, France

Web News

CEVnet Update

CEVnet, the ISCEV on-line discussion list, has completed its second year of operation. Many thanks to all who have participated. CEVnet has proved a useful means to share questions and answers within our community, and continues to be a frequently sought-after privilege of ISCEV membership.

Please remember to forward any change in your email address to Scott Brodie, the CEVnet moderator. The most common problem in the operation of the list occurs when subscribers change their email server, but arrangements are made to automatically forward email from their prior address to the new one – the CEVnet server will not accept incoming messages from the new address until our address list is updated.

We encourage members to post waveforms and clinical images. The most widely compatible format seems to be .GIF files. Our original scheme to share waveforms in spreadsheet format has not worked well in practice. A .GIF image of the waveforms seems to be preferable, and is more suitable for mfERG waveform arrays.

In order to keep the emails to a manageable size, participants may send their image files to Scott Brodie or Michael Bach, who will place the files on an internet server and provide a URL for inclusion in your message. Readers can then simply click on the link in the CEVnet message to view the image.

*Scott E. Brodie, MD, PhD; Moderator, CEVnet
scott.brodie@mssm.edu*

The ISCEV Internet efforts

At this place I traditionally point out that our ISCEV website is operative since 1996, acquiring its own domain in 1999. But what is new? For me, the web takes depressing turns, from a “netiquette” driven collaborative community to a medium where the majority of information is wrong, with search engines where entries are bought, one third of my email is spam, and malicious viruses attack good people. While on my preferred platform I am relatively secure against virus attacks – knock on wood – I know that a number of you have been seriously affected.

The email addresses on our website might provide a possible source of “spam robots”, programs that scan the entire Internet and simply collect any and all email addresses, then sold to spammers (who then advise you how to enrich your life...). I have put certain measures into effect which stop most robots.

But let us not dwell too much on the dark side, there are many bright developments apart from the thriving (Is)CEVnet. The ISCEV website is well used, mostly for access to standards, but also for information dissemination on symposia, courses and inside matters. When the revised VEP standard is out (a draft should be available by the time you read this), we will have all ISCEV standards and guidelines directly web-accessible.

I am particularly proud that through the efforts of Peter Butler at Kluwer and the relentless drive of Colin Barber we have now on-line access to the articles of our journal, Documenta Ophthalmologica. Try it out, should you not profit from it already. When (if) problems arise, contact me and not the people from the Freiburg Medical School Computing Centre: They kindly provide the ISCEV net space free of charge; so hassle me, not them.

Let me finish by encouraging you to report any problems to me, and check whether your email address on the Members page is present, up-to-date and spelled correctly. Otherwise, you may miss my interesting ISCEV announcements...

*Michael Bach, PhD, Director of International Communications,
Associate Editor, michael.bach@uni-freiburg.de*



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