

ISCEV Newsletter 2005



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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

President's Message



The present newsletter documents the liveliness of our society. Challenges we meet; new findings we absorb; and, through it all, the ISCEV spirit pervades. The most daunting challenge to ISCEV members, while differing in detail among countries, is the question of remuneration of our services. In my country this is currently rather bleak. For instance my own laboratory would not be able to pay for its existence by clinical services, were it not for its additional scientific output. Nevertheless, this points to one of the strengths of ISCEV: the intricate interweaving of clinical and basic approaches. We

all profit from reaching out: the clinician to the basic scientist, the electrophysiologist to the geneticist, the psychophysicist to the fMRI maven. This "reaching out" is another strength of ISCEV: in no other scientific body have I felt something like our oft-invoked "family spirit". That does not necessarily mean that we are all "one heart and soul" – on the contrary, many of us enjoy a friendly dispute. In fact, I feel that it requires a competition of like minds to get to the bottom of things.

Our last symposium, so joyfully organized by Bill Dawson and his endearing family, was a real highlight: in a beautiful resort we enjoyed the hospitality of our hosts and the challenges of new findings. It must have been a good meeting, if the worst that can be said about it is that the sun disobeyed ISCEV standards and did not shine consistently as advertised. Later in this newsletter you will find pictures that will recall that meeting to you, or convey its spirit to those who could not attend.

One of the goals set last year, in *précis*, is "living the standards". Among other things, this means continuously revisiting the standards: the next one being the PERG standard. To avoid accumulation of offices I stepped down from chairing this group. Mitch Brigell, Director of Standards, and I have asked Graham E Holder to take over and happily, he has agreed. What I see as of the utmost importance in these times of dwindling remuneration for clinical duties and grant support for research is the re-establishment of an impact factor¹ (IF) for our journal (see below for definition). It is unfortunately quite common, not just in my country, that career advancement and grant allocation may be just based on one's accumulated impact factor of the preceding year(s). To put it bluntly, my own take on this is: "Dump impact factors?".. The IF reduces complex human beings and their endeavours to one bland number, which is confounded by the scientific field size, inappropriate temporal sampling, and uncontrolled

selection by a commercial body (Thomson ISI), to name a few problems^{2,4}. The way it is calculated and applied by appointment boards and granting institutions is clearly inappropriate, even seen through the eyes of its inventor, Eugene Garfield. However, I am hard-pressed to name good alternatives. Peer-review of career advancement is time-consuming and open to nepotism. So I usually pursue a two-pronged approach: arguing against the impact factor on one hand, while on the other hand making a modest attempt to produce a suitable amount, so my research can be funded. Many of you may face similar problems, and possibly even employ a similar strategy. This is one important aspect to consider when weighing your take on the future of our journal, about which you will find more by our Editor, J Vernon Odom, in this newsletter. He will have served two full terms and I thank him heartily for having taken on this arduous task. On to new goals, Vernon! I am very happy that we have an impressive slate of candidates to choose from, any of whom would certainly give sterling service. I should like to conclude this address by thanking all of you who have contributed to the successful advancement of our society, especially the ISCEV officers and those who served on the working party. There are so many who deserve mentioning, I can single out only a few: David Keating for a very smooth take-over as Director of International Communications, and Don Hood who together with Bo Yang organized another enjoyable and highly-attended ISCEV@ARVO. Special mention deserves our new Secretary-General, Daphne L McCulloch, for being ready simultaneously to tackle two formidable tasks: first, taking over the secretarial duties from Colin Barber. Not only is this hard to do in the first place, here it is doubly so because Colin Barber was her forerunner – a very hard act to follow. Second, on top of this she is organising this year's ISCEV symposium. On the positive side: she will know well how to support the upcoming organisers, and she has a marvellous Glaswegian team to help her muddle through. Thank you Daphne, for keeping an eye on so many ISCEV details in this challenging situation!

Michael Bach, PhD, President of ISCEV

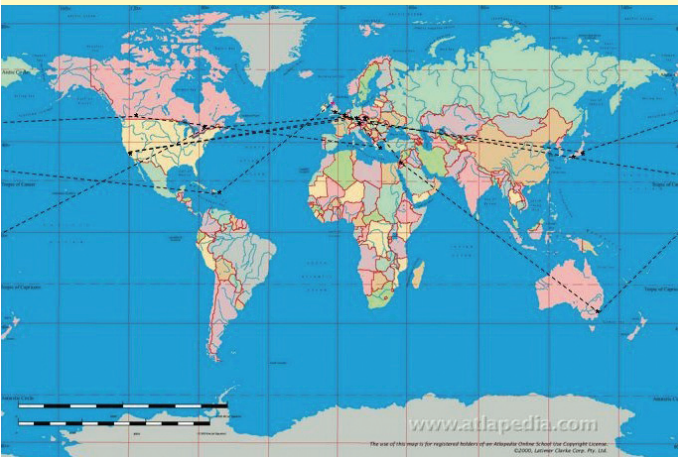
1. Definition of the Impact Factor:
<<http://www.isinet.com/essays/journalcitationreports/>>
2. Abbasi K (2004) Let's dump impact factors. *British Med J* 329 (editorial)
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<<http://jcp.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/54/11/817>>
4. Seglen PO (1997) Why the impact factor of journals should not be used for evaluating research. *British Med J* 314:497
<<http://bmj.com/cgi/pmidlookup?view=long&pmid=9056804>>

Message from the Secretaries General



In this year of transition for the ISCEV secretariat, we have written a joint message from your outgoing and incoming secretaries-general. We have been busy moving the office of the Secretary General from Nottingham to its new 'home' in Glasgow, and this will be complete before the end of the year. However, there is more to it than shifting files and changing addresses; our Secretary General is also the primary source of ISCEV information, about the procedures, protocol, precedent and the nuances of all aspects of ISCEV activity. But, don't imagine that Colin Barber's record for accumulating ISCEV information will be matched anytime soon; or indeed ever!

The ISCEV symposium has circled the globe three times since we last had a change of Secretary General, traveling eastwards, and just backtracking once. Now as the XLIII Annual Symposium of ISCEV approaches, there is a sense for us that ISCEV has come full circle; with our Symposium returning to the British isles fourteen years after Colin launched his term as Secretary-General from the Symposium in Oxford (see map). To celebrate this historic occasion we are offering a special prize at the symposium (contest rules to be announced).



As we write, preparations in Glasgow are in full swing and we are truly encouraged by the enthusiasm and the excellent science coming from our membership. One of the major functions of the Secretary-General is acting as the main liaison between ISCEV and the local symposium hosts. There is no substitute for experience, but neither can it simply be transferred with the badge of office. Daphne has drafted ISCEV symposium guidelines; using Colin's information stores and her ongoing activities as chair of the local Organising Committee. These guidelines will be presented to the ISCEV board for approval and adoption in August and we hope they will serve as a valuable resource for future Symposium hosts.

In June, the secretaries-general had the privilege of visiting the lovely Abbey at Fontevraud, the site for the LXIV Symposium. Florence Rigaudière and the 2006 ISCEV organizing committee were our hosts in Paris and for the journey down the beautiful Loire valley to Fontevraud. If you want to truly experience la belle France, start making your plans to be there during 11-15 June in 2006.

The XLV symposium will be in Hyderabad, India and we anticipate something spectacular there ... Looking forward even further to the XLVI Symposium in 2008, ISCEV has three generous invitations from America. They are from Mitchell Brigell, Ann Arbour Michigan; Anne Fulton, Boston, Massachusetts and Vernon Odom, Morgantown, West Virginia (in alphabetical order).. We all look forward to hearing from our prospective hosts at the membership meeting – if only we didn't have to choose just one location!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that ISCEV activities are not solely Symposium arrangements. Both the EOG and PERG standards are due for renewal; serious committee work on these standards will commence with breakfast forums in Glasgow. We will make a decision about future publication of the ISCEV journal (currently Documenta Ophthalmologica) informed by the efforts of our working party. And, of course, we have a slate of excellent candidates for the open positions on the ISCEV Board of Directors, including a new ISCEV editor (see elections).

We look forward to welcoming you in Glasgow in what we hope will be a memorable launching for ISCEV on its next circumnavigation of the globe.

Colin Barber Ph.D.

Vice President for Europe and Africa / outgoing Secretary general

Daphne L. McCulloch OD, PhD

Secretary-general

Message from the Director of International Communications

I took over as Director of International Communications in January 2005. Thanks to the enormous amount of work and effort put in by Michael Bach in setting up the ISCEV Website in 1996, and in keeping up with its development and maintenance, the hand over was smooth. This is fortunate and has enabled me to devote more time to my role of local treasurer and web site manager of the local organizing committee for the XLIII Symposium in Glasgow.

I look forward to serving as Director of International Communications and will continue to work to the principles and standards set by Michael since he set up our website. ISCEV members are familiar with the site and it will continue to develop and be of benefit to all ISCEV members. Please contact me if you have any comments or suggestions for our website or speak to me directly at ISCEV in Glasgow.

David Keating, Ph.D, Director of International Communications

ISCEV Treasurer's Report

The accompanying spreadsheet displays an overview of the ISCEV financial situation.

The society is still in a good standing, the two major liabilities are for DOOP publication costs and in the pre-financing of future symposia.

Pre-financing depends on the local circumstances of each organizer and is therefore different in different countries. Please note that currency exchange rates vary and therefore part of the money is held in USD and the major part in EURO (the publisher is paid in EURO).

Thanks to the majority of ISCEV members for successfully using the Online payment system and apologies to those for whom it did not work.

Ulrich Kellner, MD, ISCEV Treasurer

Treasurers Report 2004

	US\$	US\$	US\$
Income (1. Jan - 31. Dec 2004)			
Membership dues	35.658,10		
Bank account interests	1.821,94		
Sum		37.480,04	
Outstanding Income 2005 (estimated)			
Open Membership dues 2005	28.000,00		
Bank account interests 2005	1.300,00		
Symposium income 2004/2005	23.000,00		
Sum		52.300,00	
Total Income			89.780,04
Expenditure (1. Jan - 31. Dec 2004)			
Secretary General office 2004	5.731,45		
Internet services	1.385,01		
DOOP: Kluwer Publisher (27.825,00 printing costs - 8.264,17 editorial support)	23.864,21		
Congress 2004/2005 pre-financing	54.931,09		
Laywer (ISCEV registration)	2.888,16		
Editors office 2004	5.000,00		
Travel grants	3.600,00		
Check handling fees, Bank charges	1.791,12		
Credit card handling fees	1.643,67		
Sum		100.834,71	
Outstanding Liabilities 2005 (estimated)			
Check handling fees, Bank charges	1.800,00		
Credit card handling fees	2.000,00		
Secretary General office 2004	6.000,00		
Editors office 2005	5.000,00		
Treasurers office 2005 (incl. accounting)	2.000,00		
Internet services	1.500,00		
DOOP: Kluwer Publisher	35.000,00		
Symposium pre-financing 2006	25.000,00		
Travel grants 2005	3.600,00		
Abstract books printing and mailing	2.000,00		
Newsletter mailing	2.000,00		
Sum		85.900,00	
Total Expenditure			186.734,71
Teaching Account			
Teaching course account (end 2004)	14.867,40		
Sum		14.867,40	
Total Assets (as of 31. Dec 2004)			
(Total Assets (as of 31. Dec 2003))			199.111,40
USD Account	58.710,13		
EURO Account	111.512,66		
Teaching Account	14.867,40		
Sum Total Assets			185.090,19

Calculation rate Euro/USD: 1,22
U Kellner , 30.07.2005

A Message From The Director of Standards

As I think most of you would agree, the publication of standards for clinical visual electrodiagnostic test procedures has been an important achievement of our society. ISCEV standards have provided a framework for consistent implementation of electrophysiologic technologies across the world. In addition, the drafting of these standards has generated extensive, often passionate, discussion that, at the surface seems quite practical (how many channels do we need to record, what is an adequate flash intensity), but on closer examination gets to the scientific basis of why we do what we do.

I would like to thank Mike Marmor for his years of service to the society as Director of Standards. It is largely due to his diligence and clinical savvy that the standards have been as successful as they have been. In addition, I would be remiss not to thank Eberhart Zrenner for making Standards a cornerstone of his term as President of ISCEV and for his continued engagement in keeping the standardization process alive.

Now, to the business at hand, the EOG and PERG standards are currently up for their 5-year update. Core teams should be in place prior to the Glasgow meeting so that we can arrange for breakfast meetings to discuss proposed changes to these standards. Please contact me if you will not be at the Glasgow meeting, but would like to be on an extended team to review suggested changes to these documents.

Following the San Juan meeting, I met with an ad hoc team (Bach, Barber, Hogg, Holder) to discuss the concept of ISCEV certifying

equipment as meeting ISCEV standards. A letter was sent to manufacturers to get their input. Feedback was not positive, with concerns regarding the cost of such certification and as to whether ISCEV should serve as a control laboratory or rather partner with ISO International Organization for Standardization. Given that the level of detail is not present in the current standards to meet ISO specifications, it was decided to table this effort.

I look forward to serving as Director of Standards for ISCEV and hopefully to help further increase the merit and impact of our standards. This can only be done in collaboration with a vibrant and engaged membership. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas on how to better communicate the importance of these standards to the clinical community, on technologies that you think might be ready for an ISCEV standard, and any other related issues. I look forward to seeing many of you in Glasgow and perhaps to throwing back a single malt (or two).

Mitch Brigell, PhD, Director of Standards

Regional reports

Americas

The ISCEV@ARVO meeting this year was particularly exciting with more than the usual amount of discussion and debate following each paper. This can be attributed to the 14 excellent papers and the fine job done by the moderators Brad Fortune and Colin Barber. In addition, thanks to Dr. Bo Yang's administrative skills, the entire event, including dinner, went smoothly.

Don Hood, PhD, Vice President for the Americas

Asia and Australia

The 52nd annual meeting of Japanese Society of Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision was held as joint symposium of annual Low Vision meeting at Tokyo from October 8 to 10 organized by Dr. Yanashima at the Japanese National Rehabilitation Center. Unfortunately typhoon attacked Tokyo on October 9, but even with that bad weather, many members attended the meeting and the presentations and discussion were very nice. At the 109th annual meeting of Japanese Ophthalmological Society, we had a symposium of electrophysiology. Five symposists talked about ERGs, VEPs and fMRI.

The 53rd annual meeting of Japanese Society of Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision will be held at Miyazaki in February, 2006, Organized by Prof. Naoi at Miyazaki University.

In Australia, there is a major new cross Tasman collaborative research project between Dr Vaegan at Optometry, UNSW Australia and Dr Gordon Sanderson and Prof A Molteno, of Otago University NZ, at the Eye Clinic, Dunedin Hospital, Dunedin NZ, on the early diagnosis of glaucoma using magnocellular specific VEPs.

The Visual Electrophysiology Centre at the Department of Medical Technology and Physics of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth, Western Australia, in seeking to augment the existing service, has recently advertised a Request for Tender for a Multifocal Electrophysiology System.

Atushi Mizota, MD, Vice-president Asia and Australia

Europe and Africa

After a brief hiatus, when ISCEV had no Vice-president for Europe and Africa (and hence no report for 2004) I should like to express my thanks to all those who elected me to serve in this position. At this stage, I have no achievements with which to try to impress you, merely a short list of aims, which I hope you will help me to realise.

The first is to raise the profile of ISCEV (and the clinical practice of electrophysiological assessment of vision) within Europe. The approach – which has already been started by a number of enterprising individuals over a number of years – is to have an ISCEV session at mainstream ophthalmologic meetings in Europe. In particular, I intend to establish a regular “ISCEV4EVER” meeting at the annual conference of the European society for Vision and Eye Research. The first one will be this year, and it is not too late to register for the conference, please check out the website at <www.EVER.be>. At this stage, I should like to thank those ISCEV members who have kindly agreed to lecture at it. The concept is shamelessly copied from the successful ISCEV@ARVO meetings, but with, perhaps, a greater emphasis on being a showcase of electrophysiology for the benefit of ophthalmologists and others who may not be aware of how much it can offer to the practising clinician.

The second is to put a little more emphasis on the “and Africa” part of my title. I’m pleased to see a number of North African colleagues on the registrants list for this year’s symposium in Glasgow, and I shall make a point of establishing contact with them.

Third, I want to see if I can persuade any other national groups to follow the example of the British group BriSCEV and become affiliated with ISCEV. BriSCEV has been very successful since its foundation in Nottingham in 2003 (I may be a little biased here) and I am hoping to persuade other national societies to adopt a similar relationship. Already I am in discussion with a Scandinavian colleague and I would like to invite representatives of other national groups to make contact with me.

Let’s judge in 2008 as to whether I/we have achieved any of these aims!

Colin Barber PhD, Vice-president, Europe and Africa

ISCEV Editor’s Report

As careful readers of ISCEV newsletters and announcements, I am sure that you are aware that I am ending my second term as the ISCEV Editor and, therefore, as of December 31st, I will no longer be Documenta Ophthalmologica’s Editor-in-Chief. In this year’s report, I would like to take a few lines to indicate my thanks to the membership for allowing me to take on this role and the confidence which they displayed in reelecting me for a second term. I have truly enjoyed and been honored by my role in the society as its editor.

When leaving an office, I think is common to look back on what has happened and perhaps to look forward to what the future may hold for the next Editor. During my term in office, ISCEV moved from being one of several societies that contributed to Documenta Ophthalmologica to being the sole contributor so that Documenta Ophthalmologica has become “the journal of clinical electrophysiology of vision”.. This move has brought both rewards and challenges. We have a new, larger journal format. The greatest challenge has been the loss of our impact factor in 2000. Despite this loss we produced quality issues including a number of outstanding special issues. Consequently, we can now anticipate receiving our new impact factor, probably in the spring of 2006, which will be retroactive. While we cannot know in advance exactly what this impact factor will be, we can anticipate an improvement over our impact factor of 2000.

Another set of challenges over my term of office has been our dealings with the publisher, first Kluwer and now Springer. In 2004, ISCEV decided to explore the possibility of leaving Springer (and therefore leaving the copy write to the name Documenta Ophthalmologica) to set up its own electronic journal. An ISCEV working party was set up, proposals were received from Springer and from online publishers and a membership survey was undertaken. After careful consideration during ARVO in Ft. Lauderdale in May of 2005, the working party recommended to the Board and to the membership that ISCEV retain its affiliation with Documenta Ophthalmologica under new terms. Until the Board considers these recommendations and the membership votes, I cannot be sure of the outcome. However, I can outline some of the actions taken by Springer which I am sure will enhance the journal. These are some of the reasons that support the

recommendations of the working party and that the next ISCEV Editor will also be the next Editor-in-Chief of Documenta Ophthalmologica.

Web-based Electronic Submission.

Springer has replaced the e-mail system of manuscript submission with a fully web-based system, which will permit receipt of manuscripts, selection of reviewers, monitoring of manuscript progress through the review process and final decision. The date for activation of this system is August 16th; it should be online now. The fully web-based system should dramatically improve all aspects of the review process and copy flow.

Additionally, Springer has assigned a new managing editor to Documenta Ophthalmologica, Diana Epstein. Ms Epstein has considerable experience in medical editing and specifically Ophthalmology, as she also is the managing editor of von Graefes’ Archives. Ms Epstein is based in wee Glasgow, center of the ISCEV universe. She has been busy refining the web site and training members of the editorial board and myself in its use. Based on long telephone conversations with her, I think that we are lucky that she will be working with us.

Expanded Options for Journal Content

Over the last several years we have gradually expanded the content of the journal from only research articles to include first review articles and clinical case reports. We will now expand the journal to include letters to the editor, editorials, guest editorials, and book reviews. I think this broader range of content will make the journal a livelier place for us.

In closing let me encourage you to submit your articles, case reports, and letters to the journal and continue to remind you to feel free to contact me by regular mail or to email to me, <jodom@wvu.edu> if you have questions or concerns about the journal. I truly feel that we are on a path to successful expansion of our journal, but that path involves your continued participation.

*J Vernon Odom PhD
Editor-in-Chief, Documenta Ophthalmologica*

Report of the Director of Education



Due to the relatively recent meeting in Puerto Rico, and the running of last year's teaching Course in Hyderabad, India, prior to that meeting, my report this year is brief. This is also the last year in which I serve as Director of Education, as appointed by the Board. In keeping with our current bye-laws, the ISCEV Board position, 'Director of Education' will be elected by the membership for the first time in 2005.

Most important, we look forward to the forthcoming meeting in Glasgow where the traditional association between the ISCEV Course and the ISCEV meeting will resume. The faculty of Michael Bach, Chris Hogg, Don Hood, Ulrich Kellner and I will be providing a comprehensive Course that we hope will be found interesting, enjoyable and beneficial by the participants. The commercial exhibitors are thanked for providing equipment for teaching and demonstration purposes.

Since the Symposium in Puerto Rico, ISCEV Approved Courses were run in at Moorfields Eye Hospital, in London and in Munich. The annual Moorfields Course took place in March. The faculty comprised Drs Arden, Audo, Barber, Fitzke, Hogg, Holder, Leroy, Niemeyer, Robson (AG), and Thompson. The annual meeting in Munich was organised in May by Thomas Berninger with a faculty of Drs Arden, Bach, Berninger, Hogg, Holder, Jaegle, Krastel, Meigen, Neubauer, Palmowski, Rudolph, and Wildberger.

Short teaching Courses will take place at the SOE/DOG meeting in Berlin in September and at the EVER meeting in Villamouira in October. Drs Barber, Hawlina, Hogg, Holder, Kellner, Leroy, and Seeliger will be involved.

Next year's ISCEV Symposium will take place in Fontevreau, France, 11-15 June. At the moment it appears likely that the ISCEV Course will be held in Paris, in the days preceding the Symposium.

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.

Graham E Holder, PhD, Director of Education

Eberhard Dodt Award 2004

Dear colleagues,

It is very advantageous for ISCEV to have the Eberhard Dodt-Award in order to foster the development of young scientists and to motivate them to stay within Electrophysiology of vision and also to remember one of the founding fathers, Prof. Eberhard Dodt, the late Director of the Max-Planck-Institute in Bad Nauheim, Germany. This year the Eberhard Dodt-Award was given for a most interesting poster to Dr. Chi D. Luu, selected from a large number of applicants. Dr. Luu is a research fellow since 2001 at the Singapore Eye Research Institute. He has received his education at the La Trobe University in Melbourne and completed there in 2000 his PhD on the plasticity of the vergence system. His particular research interests are in myopia and in the electroretinography of animal models of ischemia. In his presentation, he has shown in 104 children and 31 adults that the degree of myopia is not influencing the electroretinogram by altered eye-length or photoreceptor density etc. The amplitude decrease that he found in myopic adults in the multifocal ERG indicates an age related modification of retinal function during the development of myopia, that is not present in children. Interestingly, the implicit time is correlated with the severity of myopia, independent of age. His careful study has contributed indeed to the understanding of myopia on the one hand and the action of myopia on the electroretinography on the other.

Mrs. Elke Dodt, who cannot attend this year's Symposium has asked me to forward her congratulations to the awardee. As you know, the Eberhard Dodt-Award has been made possible thanks to generous donations from colleagues and former students of Prof. Eberhard Dodt. Ms. Dodt has done everything in her power to ensure the financial basis and continuation of this award in the foreseeable future. In 2000 and 2003 she has organized two charity concerts in Bad Nauheim Germany and the number of donations stemming from the occasion of her birthday contributed again to the financial security of the Eberhard Dodt-Award. She asked me to read aloud a letter with the following content:

"Although I am unable to attend this year's meeting, I would like to send my greetings and good wishes to all of you. My thoughts are with you and I hope to be able to join ISCEV next year again, provided I am healthy and the next President so wishes.

Bertrand Russel once said: Scientists try to make the impossible possible, politicians put more effort in making the possible impossible. It is therefore all the more important that scientists attempt to extend their research even further to make the impossible possible in light of the goal to conquer illnesses and help suffering people. The Eberhard Dodt-Award for young scientists to promote research in clinical electrophysiology of the eye is meant as a motivation to extend the limits of the achievable further than seems possible. In this regard, I send my warmest wishes and greetings from old Europe to this year's winner."

It was a great pleasure for ISCEV to see how the eight young scientists who were given the past awards have nicely developed and soon we will have even the joy that one of the young Eberhard Dodt-Award-winners (Dr. Jalali) will organize an ISCEV meeting in India. I hope that you will see all the Eberhard Dodt-Award-winners assembling at one of the future meetings!

Prof. Dr. med. Eberhart Zrenner, Past President



Obituary



Our friend and fellow ISCEV member Matthias Korth died last summer at the age of 61. In his career he had a long-standing association with electrophysiology, and with ISCEV. After studying medicine in Erlangen and Munich he spent 2 years with John C. Armington in Boston. Returning to Germany, he did a 'habilitation' in physiology with Wolf-Dieter Keidel. He then entered ophthalmology and in 1988 became tenured professor in Erlangen. He subsequently headed two special research units addressing the pathophysiology of glaucoma, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

Matthias was an ISCEV member for two decades and contributed markedly to our field: He was probably the only one among us who measured the pattern ERG free of dioptric degradation through the use of a Maxwellian view system. He was one of the forerunners in colour-related responses and one of the first to look at the PERG in glaucoma. We still benefit from his contributions. Matthias' success relied on his background in physiology and the use of a multitude of electrophysiological approaches (ERG, mfERG, VEP, PERG) and psychophysics. Matthias' humble demeanour hid a tender, pensive humor. One had to draw him out, but then his deep insights were touching. Few knew that he was a very gifted piano player. We will warmly remember his personality and we will continue to rely on his scientific contributions.

Rainer Rix, G. O. H Naumann, and Michael Bach

Recollections of a Symposium

The XLII ISCEV Annual Symposium, the “Symposium del Sol” was held at the Hyatt Dorado Resort and Country Club in Dorado, Puerto Rico, 14–18 November 2004. Dr. William Dawson of Florida-USA hosted the well-attended symposium. The relaxed atmosphere on the “Isle de Encanto” was conducive to an excellent meeting.



The themes for the scientific program were “The Origin of Visual Signals” and “Imaging in Visual Processing”. The excellent scientific programme included 86 presentations (in nine oral sessions and poster session) as well as the clinical cases session. The 2004 ISCEV Scientific Lecture “Origins of Primate ERG Components”, given Dr. Paul Sieving, Director of the National Eye Institute was a highlight of the programme.



The social program consisted of an opening reception, complete with salsa dancing instructors.

The ISCEV Olympics, held on the beach, were challenging events – a ‘rum’-swilling relay race, a sandcastle-building contest and a beach volleyball tournament. The Olympic teams were convened by Colin Barber and carefully monitored by the Canadian-

UN, peacekeeping force headed by Carol Westall.

An afternoon excursion in Old San Juan culminated in a formal dinner at Hotel El Convento. The dinner was followed by a fine classical concert at the Cathedral of San Juan, performed by Judyth Dawson, soprano; Scott Brodie, oboe; Michael Marmor, clarinet; and William H Powell, piano.

The 2004 Eberhard Dodt Award was presented to Dr. Chi Luu by Professor Dr. Eberhart Zrenner at the closing banquet held in the Surf Room at the Hyatt Dorado (see full article in this Newsletter).



The finale to the banquet was a heated Olympic run-off contest including team imitation of the native Coqui frogs. Colin Barber elucidated the complex system of ISCEV Olympic points as well penalties so eagerly bestowed by the peace-keepers, and declared the USA team victorious.

In Spanish folklore, Dorado is a city of gold and magic. Doubtless, most of the members carried from the meeting evidence of golden sunny days and magic sand in their shoes.

*Judyth Dawson and Willian Dawson,
Past-president and Local Symposium Organiser*

Meeting minutes

Minutes of the Membership Meeting 16.00, Thursday 18 November, 2004, Puerto Rico

1. Opening by the President

The meeting is opened at 16.00 by the President, Professor Bach. 53 members are present.

2. Minutes of the 2003 meeting

The minutes of the 2003 Membership Meeting are accepted as a true record and signed as such by the President. There are no matters arising.

3. Officers' Reports (as published in the Newsletter)

The Secretary-General (Professor Barber) reminds the meeting that all the reports have been published in the Newsletter, and asks if there are any matters arising from them. There are none, and the reports are accepted.

4. Legal Registration of ISCEV

Prof Barber describes the process whereby Professor Kellner has achieved for ISCEV the status of a Registered Society (equivalent to not-for-profit) in Germany. He informs the meeting that the revised by-laws that were produced as part of this process must be formally approved by the Membership Meeting to complete the process. They are accepted unanimously by show of hands, and Prof Kellner is thanked for the tremendous effort he has put into this.

5. Elections

Prof Bach announces that elections are needed for the following Board positions:

5.1 Vice-president (Europe and Africa)

Prof Bach informs the meeting that the Board candidate is Prof Colin Barber. He speaks on behalf of Barber, and asks if there are further nominations from the floor. There are none. Barber covers his eyes. Barber is elected unanimously by show of hands.

5.2 Director of International Communications

Prof Bach informs the meeting that the Board candidate is Dr David Keating. He speaks on behalf of Keating, Keating speaks to confirm his candidacy and to express his desire to carry on the good work initiated by the previous DoIC (Bach). Prof Bach asks if there are further nominations from the floor. There are none. Keating covers his eyes.

Keating is elected unanimously by show of hands.

5.3 Director of Standards

Prof Bach informs the meeting that the Board candidate is Dr Mithch Brigell, and speaks on behalf of Brigell. Brigell speaks to confirm his candidacy and to praise the monumental work of the previous DoS, Dr Mike Marmor. Prof Bach asks if there are further nominations from the floor. There are none. Brigell covers his eyes.

Brigell is elected unanimously by show of hands.

5.4 Member-at-Large

Prof Barber informs the meeting that Prof Horiguchi is willing to stand again and is the Board candidate. Prof Miyake speaks in support of Prof Horiguchi (who is not present). Prof Bach asks if there are further nominations from the floor. There are none. Horiguchi is elected unanimously by show of hands.

5.4 Member-at-Large

Prof Barber informs the meeting that Dr Lachapelle, the presenter holder of this position is eligible and willing to stand again, and is the Board candidate. Prof Bach asks if there are further nominations from the floor. There are none. Lachapelle covers his eyes. Lachapelle is elected unanimously by show of hands.

6. Adoption of Secretary-General

Prof Barber explains the process of adopting a new Secretary-General: the person is nominated by the President, and this nomination must be ratified by the Board and confirmed by the Membership Meeting. He goes on to say that Prof Daphne McCulloch has been nominated by Prof Bach and that this nomination has been unanimously ratified by the Board. He asks for confirmation from the floor. McCulloch covers her eyes.

Prof McCulloch is unanimously adopted as Secretary-General

Prof McCulloch makes a very nice speech, thanking the society and the current Secretary-General. (Prof Barber). She presents a gift to Prof Barber, who thanks her, and the society.

7. Future Symposia

7.1 2005 (22-27 August, Glasgow, Scotland)

Prof McCulloch makes a presentation on the symposium, and announces that the website is now open, where members can find all details. She informs the meeting that the deadline for abstracts will be the end of May. The topics are:

The development and the decline of the visual system

The effects of nutrition, drugs or toxins on the visual system

The Director of Education (Dr Holder) reports that the Teaching Course will be held immediately prior to the symposium

7.2 2006 (11-15 June, Fontevraud, France)

Dr Rigaudière makes a presentation, detailing the beautiful location and the facilities available. She invites everyone to attend and asks Prof Barber to announce the Board's choice of topics, selected from those offered by the local organisers. The topics are:

The visual system and systemic disorders

The visual system and biological rhythms

7.3 2007 (August, Hyderabad, India)

Prof Barber announces that the symposium will be hosted by Dr Jalali, following a very successful "trial run" of the ISCEV Course there this year.

8. Standards: Programme for the future

Dr Brigell outlines his plans to carry forward the programme of renewal of ISCEV Standards.

9. Items from the Board Meeting

Prof Barber informs the meeting of two important items arising from the meeting:

9.1 Documenta Ophthalmologica

Prof Barber informs the meeting that contract with Kluwer will expire at the end of 2005 and must be renegotiated, and that the Board considered a paper prepared by Prof John Robson, outlining the possibilities of open-access publication. Prof Robson enlarges on the content of his paper. Prof Barber says that the Board has asked Prof Robson to prepare a fuller document, for consideration at a special meeting of the Board, to be convened at ARVO.

It is agreed that Prof Robson will circulate his thoughts to all members via a roundmail in the interim, and will incorporate, as far as possible, their views in the document he produces.

Prof Barber confirms that the issue will be considered at the next Board Meeting (in Glasgow, August 2005) and that the final decision will be taken at the Membership Meeting on that occasion. The meeting thanks Prof Robson for all his work.

9.2 Emiko Adachi's Award

Prof Barber reminds the meeting of Prof Adachi's generosity in endowing this award and announces that the process for awarding it has been agreed by the Board. In brief, any paid-up member can nominate any other paid-up member for the award, which is for long and meritorious service to ISCEV. Details will be in the upcoming News Extra.

Prof Adachi is given an ovation by everyone in appreciation of her generosity.

10. Report of the Symposium Organiser

Prof Dawson reports that the meeting has been well attended (160 registrants) with 90 presentations. He reports that the whole registration procedure has been computerised, that the talks have all been recorded and will be transcribed for publication, and that the group photograph will be placed on the website for downloading. He is applauded by the meeting for his success.

11. Any Other Business

There is a proposal from Dr Gary Trick that ISCEV attempt to involve itself in an advisory role to regulatory agencies involved in clinical trials etc of ophthalmic treatment. Several speakers (Prof Zrenner, Dr Holder, Dr Harrison, Dr Rigaudière) speak in support of the concept, but are concerned about the wording of the proposal.

It is agreed that the Secretary-General will re-draft the proposal to the satisfaction of these members and insert it in the minutes as having been agreed.

12. Closing of the meeting

The meeting is closed at 17.15

Colin Barber, Secretary-general (1991-2004)

Board of Officers

President:

M Bach

-2007/1

Vice-President: for Europe and Africa

C Barber

-2008/1

Vice-President: for Asia and Australia

A Mizota

-2006/1

Vice-President: for the Americas

D Hood

-2007/1

Secretary-General:

D McCulloch

-2008

Treasurer:

U Kellner

-2005/1

Editor:

JV Odom

-2005/2

Director of International Communications:

D Keating

2008/1

Director of Standards:

M Brigell

2008/1

Members at large:

GE Holder

-2006/2

(Director of Education)

M Horiguchi

-2008/1

P Lachapelle

-2008/2

A Tormene

-2007/1

Vaegan

-2006/1

vacancy

election in 2005

Y Miyake

-2005

Advisory Member:

Current and Recent ISCEV Officers

Office	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
President	Miyake				Bach					
Secretary-General	Barber					McCulloch				
Vice-president (Americas)	Dawson			vacant	Hood					
Vice-president (Asia/Oceania)		Oguchi			Mizota					
Vice-president (Europe/Africa)	Galloway	Harding			vacant	Barber				
Treasurer	Adachi		Kellner				election or re-election 2005			
Editor	Odom						election 2005 (new)			
Director of Education					filled by Holder (as M@L)		election 2005 (new)			
Director of International Communications					filled by Bach (as M@L)	Keating				
Director of Standards					filled by Marmor (V-P (Am)), then Advisory Member)	Brigell				
Member-at-Large	Holder (E/A)									
Member-at-Large		Lachapelle (Am)								
Member-at-Large			Brigell (Am)			vacant	election 2005 (new)			
Member-at-Large				Vaegan (A/O)						
Member-at-Large					Tormene (E/A)					
Member-at-Large	Bach				vacant	Horiguchi (A/O)				

There must be at least one M@L from each geographic region at all times

Chart Authors, Colin Barber and Michael Bach

Elections

Results of the 2004 Elections held at the membership meeting in Puerto Rico:

Secretary General	<i>Prof Daphne McCulloch (Glasgow, UK)</i>
Vice-president (Europe and Africa)	<i>Prof Colin Barber (Nottingham, UK)</i>
Director of International Communications	<i>Dr David Keating (Glasgow, UK)</i>
Director of Standards	<i>Dr Mitch Brigell (Ann Arbor, USA)</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Prof Masayuki Horiguchi (Toyoake City, Japan)</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Prof Pierre Lachapelle (Montreal, Canada)</i>

At the 2005 membership meeting, the Secretary –general will announce nominations received for the following posts and the membership will vote to reduce any longer slates of candidates to a short-list of two. The whole membership of ISCEV will vote to select the new officer from the short-list.

Treasurer (Prof. Kellner has served one term and is eligible for a second term)

Editor of Documenta Ophthalmologica (Prof. Odom has served 2 terms and is not eligible for re-election)

Director of Education new board position (currently held by Dr. Graham Holder who will complete two terms as member-at-large at the end of 2005)

Member at Large no geographical constraint (vacated by Dr. Mitch Brigell who was elected Director of Standards)

Future Symposia

LX VI ISCEV Symposium, Fontevraud, France, 11th – 15th June 2006
Photo J-F Le Gargasson Paris – Février 2003



Fontevraud is about 300 km southwest of Paris between Tours and Saumur. The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud is one of the most important monasteries in France and today an important center for art, history and an ideal location for symposia. You will be charmed by its old environment and lovely gardens for four days. The social program will lead you to the discovery of a French region rich in history with the very famous Loire castles and vineyards...

Two main themes have been chosen for the scientific sessions:
«visual system and systemic disease», «visual system and biological rhythms» as well as «free papers»

Specifics of our symposium will be available and updated on the ISCEV2006-web site <www.iscev2006.fr> opening in October 2005.
contact : iscev2006@aol.com

The annual symposium will be preceded by the ISCEV teaching course organized in Paris, Hôpital National des Quinze-Vingt on June 9th and 10th. Organiser: Graham Holder (graham.holder@moorfields.nhs.uk).
Hope to see you in France, in 2006!

Dr Florence Rigaudière, Chair, Local Organising Committee

2007 LX V ISCEV Symposium, Hyderebud, India, 25 - 29 August

The L V Prasad Eye Institute is pleased to extend a warm invitation to all participants for the 2007 ISCEV Symposium at Hyderabad, India. This is the first ISCEV to be held in this vast and diverse country and we are sure you will enjoy the scientific culture of this upcoming metropolis alongside traditional hospitality, culture and history of this ancient yet modern land.

Dr. Subhadra Jalaili, Local Organiser



Hyderabad-Secunderabad twin cities fused into one, is a city where North meets South, Islam meets Hinduism and Consent meets Cosmopolitanism. The Hyderabad-Secunderabad era of the city is from the 18th century onwards and begins after the period of oblivion that befell the city when the Quli-Qutub shahi dyansty ended. All the cultures that have reigned in the two cities have left indelible marks on them. The result is a unique cultural amalgam and social blend to which modernism has added its flavour. Major industries, educational institutions and important research and training centres are located in this city that are pride of Deccan. A mild climate and air of spaciousness and old world values of courtesy and politeness adds to the attraction of the twin cities.