

## **Society Newsletter 2004**

Prepared by Dr Spyros Sgouros, Communications Chairman, August 2004

Dear Dr Harkness,

Professor Alain Perre Kahn hosted the 31st Annual Meeting in Monaco in September 2003. The venue is one of the world's most attractive places, combining natural beauty, considerable wealth and style!

The scientific aspect of the Meeting was most successful, combining a high number of very interesting papers with invited presentations from international authorities on a variety of topics. This year it was the first time that two new features were tried upon: invited presentations in lunch time seminars and platform presentation of posters. Both features were received well by most delegates, although discussion time ended up rather limited at times.

The delegates and their families had the opportunity to enjoy the luxurious surroundings of one of the richest places on earth, and some of the delegates even tried their luck in one of the most famous Casinos! The main event of the meeting's social calendar, the Gala Dinner, was staged in one of the most glorious Halls of the famous Hotel de Paris, exuding French baroque finesse, offering a truly unforgettable experience, complemented by artistic performances from members of the Society!

The forthcoming meeting in Buenos Aires is set to provide another memorable opportunity of a combination of high caliber medical science and a rich social programme, which over the years has fermented the lasting friendships that we all enjoy and which act as a strong attracting force towards the Society's life.

We would like to express our special appreciation to Professor Shizuo Oi, the former President of the ISPN. His dedication to the society, and its ideals are well recognized and admired.

Spyros Sgouros

Birmingham, England

### **Message from the ISPN President**

Estimados Colegas,

I am very excited about the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Society in Buenos Aires. The Organizing Committee and the Scientific Program Committee have done outstanding work to put the local arrangements and program together. This appears to be one of our very best scientific meetings and I hope you are making plans to attend. Our local hosts are excited to welcome us to Buenos Aires and Argentina. As you may be aware, we will have simultaneous translation of the presentations into Spanish so we expect a significant turnout of our colleagues from Latin American.

The meeting in Monaco was a great success and we are hoping to build on the prior successes of the society.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Con mis mejores deseos

Marion L. Walker, MD

President, ISPN

### **Message from the ISPN Past President**

Dear Colleagues,

As a chairman of nominating committee, would like to announce in the news letter that the nominating committee meeting for 2004 new ISPN Executive Board Members will be held on August 29, 9-10 AM before the Editorial Board Meeting and the Executive Board Meeting on the same day. The Nominating committee members includes Prof. Peter Jonathan, Prof. Alain Pierre Kahn, myself and other two nominated members. The place of the meeting will be decided by Dr. Pomata and Dr. Schijiman.

With warmest personal regards, I remain.

Shizuo Oi

Tokyo, Japan

### **Message from the Secretary**

### ***Annual Meetings***

After an exiting Meeting in Monaco last September we will be meeting again in Buenos Aires next August. This forthcoming event will provide once again an opportunity to update our knowledge with the latest developments in our field and rekindle old and new friendship in beautiful surroundings. Future meetings will be held in the following cities: Vancouver in 2005 (P.Steinbok ), Taipei in 2006 ( T. Wong), Liverpool in 2007 (P. May). This year our Executive Board will be considering future venues for the Annual Meeting in 2008. Those interested in hosting the ISPN meeting in their country are invited to write to me with a formal proposal for this special event.

### ***Membership Certificates***

The certificates of Membership are automatically issued to new members few months after the Annual Meeting and are also available upon request to all members that wish to have the "New" certificate. There is no charge for the New Certificate, and can be obtained by writing to me at the Secretariat office.

### ***Membership Fees***

A timely response and payment of your annual dues contributes to the smooth running of our Society's financial operation. Please don't delay it!

### ***Change of Address***

I request your cooperation in informing me of any change of address, if possible including Fax and E mail, that you or other members in your area have experienced recently or since our last booklet edition in 2002. If you have access to the Web, you can update your details on your own as well. This information is vital to our Society to function both efficiently and effectively. We count on you!

### ***Nominations***

I encourage you to submit nominations for future vacancies in our Executive Board. You can submit nominations, directly to me or to Shizuo Oi, chairman of the nominating committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and your families my best wishes and to thank you for all your support and encouragement.

Carlo Mazza

Verona, Italy

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting Sunday, September 14, 2003, 1300 Hrs.**

**Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monaco**

**03.1.1. Presidential Welcome**

Shizuo Oi thanks Alain Pierre-Kahn for organizing the meeting this year. Likewise Jack Walker expressed his thanks to Alain Pierre-Kahn for organizing the meeting.

**03.1.2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 2002**

The minutes of the previous meeting held in Kyoto, Japan had been previously circulated. Not having errors, omissions or amendments, these minutes were unanimously approved.

**03.1.3. Annual Meeting Reports**

*a) 2002 - Kyoto.* Shizuo Oi presented once again the 30th anniversary booklet produced previous to the Kyoto meeting. The total number of people attending the Kyoto meeting were 251 participants plus 68 accompanying persons. The financial results of this meeting were reported by Shizuo Oi with a total budget of \$271,916,00 U.S. Dollars after paying all of the expenses resulted in a deficit of approximately \$4,000.00 U.S. Dollars. Paid by Professor Oi personally. After some discussion the Executive Board decided that our Treasurer should refund Shizuo Oi for the amount in deficit.

*b) 2003 - Monaco.* Alan Pierre-Khan presented preliminary results of registrations showing a grand total of 410 registrations including 267 delegates, 67 nurses and residents, 76 accompanying persons. The total budget for this meeting was of 434,201,00 Euros as shown on the preliminary report on the secretary's file. The reported contribution from the industry to this meeting exceeded 210,000,00 Euros.

*c) 2004 - Buenos Aires.* Hugo Pomata reported on the organization of the forthcoming meeting next year in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This meeting will be sponsored both

by the Argentinean Association of Neurosurgery as well as by the industry. The venue for the meeting will be the Sheraton Buenos Aires & Convention Centre. The final dates for the meeting are August 29 to September 2, 2004. The organizing committee is looking forward to attract participants from neighboring Latin American Countries. A pre-congress ISPN sponsored CME Course will be organized.

#### **03.1.4. Treasurer's Report**

Rick Abbott files his treasurer report and indicates that the treasury has a positive balance in its account. This was the first year that a credit card payment was implemented at a cost of approximately \$8.00 U.S. D per transaction. Rick Abbott indicates that the Society is not currently incorporated. To be a nonprofit society will require to have all Executive Board Members sign a document, which will have to be validated by the American Consulate in Monaco. It was felt that this procedure will be somewhat awkward and will eventually bind the ISPN to United States Tax Legislation. This arrangement was found to be unsatisfactory for this Society. Because of legal and taxation implications, it was felt that a central bank account should remain stable in one country like the World Federation for Neurosurgical Societies that holds a Central Bank Account in Geneva Switzerland. The possibility of opening a central bank account in Switzerland will be explored both by the Treasurer and the Secretary.

#### **03.1.5. Committee Reports**

*a) Audit:* Francesco Velardi reports on the results of a recent audit that he conducted regarding the Bylaws of this Society. The reported results of this audit are included in the repository of the secretariat office.

*b) Bylaws:* Paul Steinbok had circulated to all members of this board proposed minor changes to the Bylaws. These minor changes to the Bylaws were unanimously approved by the Board. Preliminary discussion took place about the possibility of amending some of the Bylaws. Paul Steinbok will prepare these proposed amendments to the Bylaws which will be circulated to Executive Board Members for discussion at the Executive Board Meeting to be held in Buenos Aires next year.

*c) Membership:* Byung-Kuy Cho presents the names of new candidates for membership as follows: Dr. Hani Ahmad Abdelaziz, Jordan; Dr. Takumi Abe, Japan; Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Anazi, Saudi Arabia; Dr. Neil Buxton, United Kingdom; Dr. Shlomi Constantini, Israel; Dr. Vincente Cuccia, Argentina; Dr. Anthony Graham Fieggen, South Africa; Dr. Roberto Jaimovich, Argentina; Dr. Surbhi Jain, India; Dr. Mihoko Kato, Japan; Dr. Andrew J.J. Law, New Zealand; Dr. David McAuley, United Kingdom; Dr. Sanjay N. Misra, Canada; Dr. Hiroshi Mori, Japan; Dr. Hidehiro Oka, Japan; Dr. Carols A. Routaboul, Argentina; Dr. Catherine Ruebenacker-Mazzola, USA; Dr. Stephen Santoreneos, Australia; Dr. Keiji Shimizu, Japan; Dr. Mark M. Souweidane, USA; Dr. Dale M. Swift, USA; Dr. Tatsuya Tanaka, Japan; Dr. Bradley E. Weprin, USA; Dr. Abdul R.H. Zwayed, Republic of Yemen. This list of

candidate members was voted by the board and unanimously approved. There were three requests for Senior Membership Status and these requests were made by Robin Humphreys, Toronto, Canada; Derek Bruce, Dallas, USA; Richard Moiel, Huston, TX, USA. This change in membership status was also unanimously approved by the board. There were two resignations received, Mitchel Burger, San Francisco, USA; Olivier Delalande, Paris, France. A list of change in addresses was also submitted by Dr. Cho and included in the secretary's file.

*d) Education:* Tai-Tong Wong hands in a full report on the activities on his committee during the year. He initiated a proposal for an Educational Course in Mainland China beginning from 2005. In this regard he reports that he is trying to develop a good connection with experienced senior pediatric neurosurgeons in China. In addition he reports on the previously scheduled Second Educational Course in Morocco for 2004 and the Third Argentinean Course in Buenos Aires. The previously planned course in Thailand last July was postponed because of the SARS epidemic in that region. He reports on an application received for ISPN endorsement of a CME Course in Cuba in March, 2003. The general concensus obtained from our Executive Board was to endorse the meeting without financial support. The Education Committee approved a survey on Intrathecal Baclofen and Rhizotomy during 2003. This survey was proposed by Paul Steinbok with Spyros Sgouros assistance through the ISPN Website.

*e) Liaison:* Hugo Pomata reports on the activities of his committee during 2003. He indicates that all the activities that had been carried out have been encompassed with the pediatric chapter of the Latin American Federation of Neurosurgery (FLANC). In his report he includes a list of other meetings organized in Central and South America during the year. This report is also included in the Secretary's File.

*f) Communications:* Both Tad Tomita and Spyros Sgouros report on the successful electronic publication and circulation of this year's newsletter, thus decreasing the cost of this publication.

*g) Ethics:* Gordon McComb reports on a preliminary investigation he carried regarding the unusual practices of a US Neurosurgeon in the management of some neuro-oncology patients. Considering that this particular neurosurgeon is not a member of the ISPN, further investigation or action in this matter can not be pursued.

*h) Nominating:* Jonathan Peter presents the slate of nominations for the ISPN Executive Board for 2003/2004 as follows: President, Marion Walker; President Elect, Enrique Ventureyra; Secretary, Carlo Mazza; Treasurer, Rick Abbott; Annual Meeting Chairman, Hugo Pomata; Audit, Paul May; Bylaws, Paul Steinbok; Communications, Spyros Sgouros; Education, Tai-Tong Wong; Ethics and Morals, Gordon McComb; Liaison, Francesco Velardi; Membership, Saffet Mutluer; Nominating, Shizuo Oi; Scientific Program, Joong Uhn Choi; Ways & Means, Tad Tomita; Historian, Fernando Rueda Franco; Editor Child's Nervous System, Concencio Di Rocco. After a brief discussion the Board unanimously approves this slate of nominations for new Officers in 2003-04.

*i) Ways and Means:* Dr. Choi files in his report on activities of his committee with the list of names of recipients for the ISPN Scholarship (5) this year and the recipients

were: Ashish Suri (India), Yavor Enchev (Bulgaria), Marcelo Galarza (Argentina), Hassan Kadri (Syria), and Dattatraya Muzumdard (India).

*j) Scientific:* Carlo Mazza reports that this year his committee received 223 abstracts for review of which 122 were accepted for oral presentation and 58 for poster presentation. The deadline for abstract submission for next years meeting in Buenos Aires was set for April 30, 2004. The preferred method for abstract submissions is through the Meeting Website (on-line submissions). The winner of the Anthony J. Raimondi Award this year was Dr. V. Vougioukas from Freiburg, Germany with the paper entitled "Perspectives and Limitations of Image Guided Neurosurgery in Pediatric Patient's". This years Scientific Program included the presentation of the monograph on Fetal CNS Pathology, Round Tables, Luncheon Seminars on: Fetal Pathology, Advances in Craniofacial Surgery, Management of Pediatric Arteriovenous Malformations, Recent Advances in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology, Epilepsy Surgery, and Surgery for Movement Disorders.

#### **03.1.6. Historian**

Dr. Fernando Rueda Franco did not attend the meeting this year, hence no report was available.

#### **03.1.7. Child's Nervous System**

Same agenda and minutes taken during the Editorial Board Meeting held in this room (Salon Grand Prix B) Monte Carlo Grand Hotel prior to this Executive Board Meeting. These documents are included in the Secretary's File.

#### **03.1.8. Business Arising / New Business**

*Senior Membership Requests:* As previously outlined under membership committee report. *2007 Meeting Selection:* The following bids were received: Liverpool, England (Paul May), Goa, India (Sanat Bhagwati). After discussing these two possibilities for the forthcoming meeting it was unanimously decided that Liverpool, England will be the site for the Annual meeting in 2007.

#### **03.1.9 Correspondence**

A letter was received from Rick Abbott regarding the Liaison with AANS/CNS Joint Section for Pediatric Neurosurgery. This letter stated that at a recent meeting of the Joint Section, Rick Abbott presented to the Executive the idea of establishing the office of Liaison to the ISPN. This idea received wide approval as the Joint Section Executive is very interested in establishing and maintaining a close relationship with

the ISPN. At their business meeting a request for volunteers was made from the membership to fill in such an office. Several members of that society came forward and it is anticipated that someone will fill in this post in the near future. This particular matter will require further discussion at our next Executive Board Meeting in 2004.

There being no other businesses the meeting was adjourned at 1700 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Enrique C.G. Ventureyra, M.D.,

ISPN Secretary, September, 2003.

**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting Minutes Monday, September 15, 2003,  
1730 Hrs.**

**Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monaco.**

After the Presidential Welcome the same agenda as the Executive Board Meeting was followed (minutes attached). The minutes of previous meeting held in Kyoto in 2002 had been previously circulated via Newsletter. The minutes were presented for approval and after motion made by Paul Steinbok and seconded by Marion Walker, these minutes were unanimously approved.

Alain Pierre-Kahn reports on the successful organization of this years meeting with a participation of approximately 425 people. In addition a large budget with very important support from the industry was presented to the membership.

Hugo Pomata presents a brief report about the organization of next year meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina with final dates set from August 29th to September 2, 2004 with the Congress Venue at the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel and Convention Center. The deadline for abstract submissions was set for April 30, 2004.

Paul Steinbok reports on the organization of the forthcoming annual meeting in Vancouver from September 11th to 15th, 2005.

Dr. B.K. Cho presents the list and names of the proposed new members as well as requests for change to Senior Membership Status and two resignations. Moved by Concenzio Di Rocco and seconded by Sergio Valenzuela the list of new members as well as the change in membership status were unanimously approved.

Jonathan Peter presents his nominating committee report with the slate of nominations for the ISPN Executive Board for 2003/2004 and after motion made by Paul Steinbok



the proposed slate of nominations for the ISPN Executive Board was unanimously approved. In addition two members at large were elected by the Membership to join the Nominating Sub-committee and these members were, Drs. Antonio Germano, Italy and Charles Teo, Australia.

2007 Meeting Selection: Liverpool, England was selected to host the annual meeting in 2007. This meeting will be organized by Paul May.

There being no other businesses, the meeting was adjourned at 1830 hrs.

Enrique C.G. Ventureyra,

ISPN Secretary, September, 2003.

### **Message from Education Committee**

Dear colleagues,

It's coming up to the 32nd ISPN meeting, this year being held in Buenos Aires, and there I shall be reporting to my dear colleagues the works of the education committee since the last meeting in Monaco.

### **ISPN courses for 2003**

In 2003, there are two approved educational courses, including the 2nd Southeast Asian Course and the India course in Lucknow

### ***The Indian Course in Lucknow***

The India course in Lucknow was held on November 7-9, 2003, after the 31st ISPN meeting in Monaco. The Scientific Chairman was Dr. Paul Steinbok and the Local Committee Chairman was Dr. Sanat Bhagwati. Foreign faculty and local faculty included Dr. Paul Steinbok, Dr. Concezio Di Rocco, Dr. Hajima Arai, Dr. Tai-Tong Wong, Dr. C.E. Deojpuri, Dr. B. Chidambaram, Dr. A.K. Purohit, Dr. V.K. Jain, Dr. A.K. Mahapatra, and Dr. V.P. Singh. Dr. Enrique Ventureyra and Dr. Rick Abbott finally could not attend because of personal inconvenience. 112 delegates had registered for this second part of the CME course sponsored by ISPN in India. This 2.5 days course covered important topics as: Head trauma; Spinal tumors; Hypertonic cerebral palsy; Supratentorial tumors; Vascular pathologies; Epilepsy surgery; Interesting case discussion. Dr. Steinbok and Dr. Di Rocco initiated hot discussion with local delegates. Young Indian neurosurgeons were eager to learn and raise questions. Local faculty could also give good and informative lectures also.

Thanks to Dr. Paul Steinbok for organizing this very successful course in India. The response from students was very positive. Personally, I feel important to involve experience local specialties to join the program. Mutual communication and exchange of knowledge base experience is very important for ISPN educational course.

### ***The 2nd Southeast Asian Course in Bangkok***

The 2nd Southeast Asian Course in Bangkok, Thailand was postponed to 2004 because of SARS outbreak in 2003. The educational course was finally held on June 30 - July 2, 2004, through the persistent effort of Dr. Concezio Di Rocco, the Scientific Chairman of this course. The local committee chairman was Dr. Taecholarn Choepow of Chulalongkorn Hospital in Bangkok. This educational course was also approved by the Thai Neurosurgical Association. Foreign faculty contributing to this educational course were Dr. Concezio Di Rocco, Dr. Harold ReKate, Dr. Shizuo Oi, Dr. Carlo Mazza, Dr. Enrique Ventureyra, Dr. Tadori Tomita, and Dr. Tai-Tong Wong. Dr. Di Rocco organized the scientific program. Sessions covered topics on hydrocephalus, arachnoid cysts, spinal dysraphism, tumors, malformations, and vascular malformations. Dr. Di Rocco also emphasized on topics "How I do it" that included topics of V-P shunt and complications, arachnoid cysts, approaches and management of tumors, technique for endoscopic neurosurgery, craniosynostosis and craniofacial dysmorphism, and AVM excision from eloquent cortex. The response of this education course was general good. The chief local organizers, Dr. Sinhujai Thansathi and Dr. Taecholarn Choepow, expressed that this educational course was very important and instructive for young neurosurgeons in Thailand. The hope that there will be future chance of hosting the ISPN educational course in Thailand again.

### **ISPN courses for 2004**

In 2004, there are two approved educational courses, including the 3rd Argentina ISPN Course in Buenos Aires and the 2nd Morocco Course.

### ***The 3rd Argentina ISPN Course in Buenos Aires***

The third Argentina ISPN course will be held in association with the coming 32nd ISPN Annual meeting in Buenos Aires. Dr. Paul Steinbok is the Scientific Chairman. It will be a 3 days course including 2 days of neuroendoscopy. Dr. Charles Teo is the Neuroendoscopic course director. Except neuroendoscopy, other sessions include topics of hypertonic cerebral palsy, brainstem tumors, and epilepsy surgery in children. Foreign faculty contributing to this educational course will be Dr. Rick Abbott, Dr. Guiseppi Cinalli, Dr. Connor Malluci, Dr. Paul Steinbok, Dr. Charles Teo, and Dr. Tai-Tong Wong. The local organizing committee and faculty include Dr. Horacio Conesa, Guillermo Fernan dez Molina, Dr. Roberto Jaimovich, Dr. Hugo Pomata, and Dr. Edgard Schijman. We look forward for the great success of this

particular educational course with specific interest in neuroendoscopy, hypertonic cerebral palsy, and epilepsy surgery.

### ***2nd Moroccan Course***

With regard to the very successive 1st Moroccan course in Rabat in October 2002, a cycle of 3 courses was approved by the Executive Board of ISPN. Through the communication with Dr. A. El Khamlichi, the 2nd Moroccan Course was proposed to do it on November 19-21, 2004, in Fez. Dr. Alain Pierre Khan agreed to contribute as the Scientific Chief of the course to communicate with Dr. A. El Khamlichi and Dr. El Ouahabi to organize the course. Dr. Khan already wrote a proposal of the course to our Moroccan colleagues in June 2004, and waits for the answer.

### **Other future approved courses**

#### ***3rd SEA course in Philippines***

Through the communication with Dr. Seow Wen-tew in Singapore, we got messages that Philippines would like to host this course. Dr. Gerardo Legaspi will be the local representative to assist in organizing the educational course in 2005. I already wrote a letter to him in July 2004 and wait for their confirmative answer.

#### ***Possibilities of Course in China***

China is a big country with vast population, beautiful lands and cities. The possibility to initiate ISPN educational courses and to fulfill the purpose of ISPN in teaching and improving medicare in the field of pediatric neurosurgery has become a great concern of our senior colleagues. The educational committee is trying to develop a connection with experienced senior pediatric neurosurgeons of China. Undoubtedly, we have done it well. Dr. Dawson Fong in Hong Kong already wrote to me showing interest to host one of the three ISPN Education Course in China. If the Executive Board of ISPN approves this proposal, the Education Committee will be responsible to communicate and organize the first course of ISPN in China in 2005.

#### ***Proposal for 3rd ISPN course in India***

After the ISPN course in Lucknow, India in November 2003, our Indian colleagues, Dr. Sanat Bhagwati and Dr. C.E. Deopujari expressed their strong request for further educational course in India. Their proposal will be forward to the Executive Board Meeting in Buenos Aires.

Dr. Tai-Tong Wong

Education Committee Chairman of ISPN

## **Message from Communication Committee**

The Society's Web Site has been expanding continuously and is now the main reference point of the society's life.

Information on past and future meetings, previously accepted abstracts, educational activities, newsletters, the annual Raimondi Award and Scholarships and the Society's By Laws, can be found all in the various sections of the Site, as well as the facility to block email all the members of the Society.

Abstract submission, scoring by the Scientific Committee and selection by the Scientific Committee Chairman is performed entirely online. Scoring is performed anonymously (each reviewer offers marks out of 5, total marks potentially 20 from all four reviewers), and for this reason we request authors not to mention the name of their Department, to avoid bias. The Scientific Committee Chairman selects the best papers, according to total score. Sometimes he/she re-assigns papers from oral to poster presentation, to avoid rejecting them. We should always remember to fill the email address field in the abstract submission form, as electronic communication is the main method of informing the results of the selection.

All the members who have a valid email address have received a username and password, for the Membership Zone. Using them, you can update the personal details, and soon will be able to pay online the annual subscription. It is very important that you keep your username/password safe.

In response to members' requests, the details of the members are password protected, to avoid illegitimate use of their personal details. Legitimate Society members can use their password in order to see the address details of other fellow members.

This year we will recruit hopefully a computer scientist as a permanent webmaster. This will help the Communications Chairman to concentrate on the content of the Site even more.

It is very important that you keep your financial obligations to the Society up to date, to support the Society's educational activities. Members who have not paid for two successive years will be suspended and eventually removed from the Membership List.

Membership to the Society is a privilege and honour for every Neurosurgeon active in the field of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and prompt payment should not be a reminder!

The Communications Committee will continue to work hard to enhance the work of the Society with new features.

Your support and encouragement in the last three years was greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Spyros Sgouros

Birmingham, England