



# The World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereoccephalotomy

**WSSFN  
Minutes  
Board of Director's Meeting  
June 27, 2017  
Berlin, Germany**

**Attending:** Ahmed Alkhani, Tipu Aziz, Ronald Alterman, Jocelyne Bloch, Patric Blomstedt; Terry Coyne, Jin Woo Chang; Rees Cosgrove, Paresch Doshi; Emad Eskandar, Jairo Espinosa, Graham Fieggen, Clement Hamani; Marwan Hariz, Chris Honey; Mojgan Hodaie, Zelma Kiss, Joachim Krauss, Kendall Lee, Andres Lozano, Joseph Neimat; Bart Nuttin; Fabian Piedimonte; Jean Regis, Ali Rezai, David Roberts; Jose Damian Carrillo- Ruiz, Michael Schulder; Rick Schuurman, Konstantin Slavin; Roberto Spiegelmann, Byung Chul Son; Bomin Sun, Takaomi Taira; Hiroki Toda; Osvaldo Vilela Filho, Jürgen Voges and Melody Dian

## **1. Welcome:**

Dr. Krauss welcomed and thanked the group for attending the meeting and their continued support of WSSFN.

## **2. Brief overview of the WSSFN 2017 Congress: (All)**

Dr. Krauss and the Board warmly thanked Dr. Hodaie and Dr. Regis for their hard work towards the success of the meeting. Attendance is at approximately 970, with about 160 speakers and over 400 abstracts submitted. There were a large number of requests for travel grants so 24 were provided. Sponsorship funding exceeded expectations. The venue was ideal with ample space for the program. The History Display was also successful and a brochure may develop from the content.

## **3. Review of membership and finances (Drs. Chang, Slavin and Schulder):**

Membership information was highlighted. Membership in WSSFN has grown significantly from its founding days to the current membership. The information listed on the membership handout was a reflection of the Mutual Benefit Plan and also reflected the numbers on the original agreement with each society. There are 130 individual WSSFN members, 240 ESSFN members, 30 JSSFN Board members, 101 KSSFN members, 100 ISSFN members, 30 MSSFN members, 100 SLANFE members. There is a total of 1106 of all WSSFN members. The overall WSSFN membership growth in the past years has been mainly due to negotiation with the regional societies moving from individual members to society membership giving a much stronger base.

It was also mentioned that the finances are strong with a total assets of \$ 644,139 which includes the funds in the regular society account and the three CD's at the Bank of Montreal. Three individuals from the auditing committee reviewed the asset and expense report and signed off on it as accurate and complete. A financial summary was provided to the Board.

#### **4. WSSFN Mutual benefit plan with other societies (All)**

Significant progress has been made with other societies joining WSSFN as noted in the information above. The current agreement with Karger is that societies pay in bulk 29 Euros for one-half of their membership per year. (eg if there are 100 members the society would pay for 50 members x 29 Euros). This would make the society membership affordable. Dr. Slavin mentioned that the agreement will be reviewed and possibly renegotiated with Karger to have a better method of payment since memberships within each society vary.

As an important incentive, presidents of the other society would become part of the WSSFN leadership as Continental Vice Presidents giving them additional visibility and a voice in global activities. Other countries such as China may be approached to gauge interest in WSSFN membership.

#### **5. PPN DBS Working group Update (Dr. Krauss)**

A collaborative committee (WSSFN and Movement Disorders Society) had been working on manuscripts published as a supplement in the Movement Disorders journal. Two have already been published. Funds were made available through a grant from Medtronic. This was the first initiative between the Movement Disorders Society and WSSFN.

#### **6. WSSFN DBS Unmet Needs (Drs. Krauss, Schulder, Chang)**

A project has been initiated in order to produce a manuscript (*Unmet Needs in Functional Neurosurgery*) with important topics prepared by both assigned WSSFN key leaders and by neuroscientists working in the field. There is to be a concentration on technology along with psychiatric topics, research, industry relations and education. The current focus for the publication is DBS. It is a WSSFN approved venture with an estimated cost of \$20,000 to cover the expenses for a meeting to discuss the contributions and finalize the manuscript. The aim is to have a document, with a high priority in the unmet needs, to be published in a journal such as LANCET Neurology or similar journals. Specific interest appears to be a new project on technology in DBS.

#### **7. Committee Updates: (New name Task Force)**

The committees consist of Research (Dr. Lozano; Dr. Schulder), Psychiatric Neurosurgery (Dr. Nuttin), Education (Dr. Krauss and Dr. Regis), Industrial Relations (Dr. Neimat-possibly Dr.

Pouratian taking this role) Each committee was scheduled to meet during the main conference (Wednesday) to discuss various issues and would report separately.

Dr. Spiegelmann had indicated that there was a great need for support and equipment in underdeveloped countries. He continues to seek avenues to provide the help so needed.

### **8. Karger (All)**

The relationship with Karger remains constant. Our contact, Thomas Nold, although moving from Switzerland to the US, remains our key Karger representative.

### **9. Journal Report (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts stated that the new SFN Impact Factor is 1.692. Dr. Roberts also stated that the manuscript submissions have broad geographic representation. There are 1/3 from North and South America, 1/3 from Europe and 1/3 from Asia. The acceptance rate for manuscripts is currently 40%. He stated that overall the health of the journal is strong. His work was met by appreciation from the Board members

### **10. New Constitution and By-law (All)**

The change in the By-laws has been an ongoing process. The final version that is up for any discussion has been posted on the WSSFN website 30 days prior to the conference so anyone interested could review and comment. The prepared By-laws with some key changes were to be voted on at the General Assembly Meeting on the last day of the conference. The major change is from a 4 year to 2 year commitment to the presidency. Comments had been made that when the society was small it made sense to have the officers hold their position for 4 years. Now 4 years is too long of a commitment given the fast pace of recent developments and the increasing number of members of the society. The 2 year term may encourage some younger neurosurgeons to become involved knowing that if they chose to do so, they could move into leadership positions a bit more quickly. Also, Board members could serve up to 8 years, although the average may be four years. Also, the main conference would be held biennially rather than every four years. If regional societies would like hold a meeting in the “off-years” it could be done under the auspices of WSSFN in order to continue to encourage education in developing nations. There is also a new designation for committees. The standing committees will remain; the other groups will now be called task forces. This terminology indicates the group will have a specific job and disband upon completion. The president will be ex officio of each group. There was also some general adjustment in language within the By-laws. Updated By-laws which would be approved will be posted on the web site. (Vote was held and By-laws approved at the General Assembly Meeting)

### **11. Suggestions for New Leadership Members: (All)**

The new slate of officers had been approved by the Board to include: Dr. Schulder as President, Dr. Chang as Vice president, Dr. Slavin as Secretary, Dr. Regis as Vice-secretary

and Dr. Hodaie as Treasurer. Additionally Dr. Taira provided a complete list of the new slate of Board members noting those who will be returning as well as the new additions. There will be 30 Board members instead of the current number of 23. The list also noted the Continental Vice presidents which now include the presidents of each of the regional societies, and those with specific responsibilities; web master, newsletter editor, membership coordinator, journal editor and historian. The slate will have a final vote at the General Assembly meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2017 (Vote was held and slate was approved at the General Assembly Meeting)

**12. WSSFN New York 2019: (Dr. Schulder)** Dr. Schulder said that plans have started for the 2019 meeting. New York City is the probable location and June the preferred month. Dr. Joseph Neimat will be the scientific program chairman.

**13. Other items:** There were no additional discussion items so the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm