



The World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereoecephalotomy

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WSSFN website: www.wssfn.org

WSSFN Board of Directors Meeting

May 27, 2013
Tokyo, Japan

Present: Giovanni Broggi, Terry Coyne, Marwan Hariz, Mojgan Hodaie, Christopher Honey, Joachim Krauss, Andres Lozano, Joseph Neimat, Bart Nuttin, Jean Regis, David Roberts, (delayed) Michael Schulder, Roberto Spiegelmann, Takaomi Taira, Hiroki Toda, Bomin Sun, Francisco Velasco, Osvaldo Vilela-Filho; and Melody Dian

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:30 pm by Dr. Taira.

1. Welcome: Dr. Taira welcomed the Board members to the meeting. He thanked the planning committee for their efforts in making the meeting very successful. He announced that as of May 1, 2013, 522 individuals had registered from 43 countries. It was anticipated that this number would rise appreciably with onsite registrants. He also reviewed the number of keynote lectures (13); invited papers (54); free papers (419). There were 2 successful satellite symposium, 9 breakfast seminars and 9 Bento Box lunch debates for a very comprehensive program. He also announced that there were 17 travel grant awards which were coordinated by Dr. Hodaie.

2. Proposal of new officers and Board members: Dr. Taira shared the suggested slate of new officers. Dr. Krauss would be nominated as president, Dr. Schulder as Vice president, Dr. Chang as Secretary-treasurer and Dr. Konstantin Slavin as Vice-Secretary-treasurer.

A letter from SLANFE leadership was shared by Dr. Taira. The SLANFE group suggested that there should be officer representation from Latin America and recommended Dr. Vilela serve in some capacity as an officer. After discussion it was moved that Dr. Vilela serve in a new position as second Vice Secretary-treasurer.

There were also some changes to the Board of Directors which included addition of new Board members and changes to the Continental VP's. The slate was approved for presenting to the membership at the Business Meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

Board members also asked Dr. Lozano to continue to play an active role in the Society

3. Discussion of any by-law revisions: Based on the growth of membership from 362 in 2009 to 794 currently, it was suggested that the Board membership increase from the 15 stated in the by-laws to up to 25.

4. Membership update: As noted earlier, membership has increased to our current number of 794. This includes ASSFN and ESSFN members. Dr. Tiara stated that there continues to be discussion about joining WSSFN with the Japanese Society. There are approximately 500 members but consideration may be given to having only the 35 Board members be part of WSSFN. He stated that the group is very political and may need some encouragement to join WSSFN. It was also suggested that discussions continue with SLANFE in order for them to also become members of WSSFN.

5. Changes in membership fees and Karger contract. Dr. Krauss provided information on the ESSFN proposal with Karger. Each year ESSFN will send Karger 29 Euros for each of 200 members which will cover the online costs for journal access. If a member would like to have the hard copy of the journal, they would need to purchase it separately. Dr. Krauss has been negotiating with Mr. Nold, the Karger representative, for sometime towards this arrangement. As of January 1, 2012, ESSFN had joined WSSFN and sends WSSFN an amount yearly of 20 Euros for 200 members.

ASSFN has completed their negotiations with Karger and will continue the relationship with WSSFN. The current amount that ASSFN pays to WSSFN through their membership fees is \$50 per member.

At this time WSSFN will also like to change their membership pricing structure and work out the details including the contract with Karger.

It was suggested that as a possibility, the societies have uniformity with a yearly fee of 20 Euros for each member. There was agreement to this suggestion but further details will have to be discussed and followed through.

There were comments that joining the societies is an excellent idea with strength in unity that can offer many possibilities.

6. Suggestions for next Interim Meeting. There were several suggestions for the 2015 interim meeting including Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, and India. For various reasons 3 were eliminated and India was recommended as the choice with Dr. Paresh Doshi serving as host chairman.

Dr. Hodaie emphasized that the purposes of the Interim Meeting is for education and training and to keep short and long term goals in mind in developing the program. The Interim Meeting such as in Cape Town South Africa was a long term investment in the growth of the specialty in Africa.

7. Journal report: Dr. Roberts had notified the group that he would be delayed. Discussion about the journal was deferred until the journal meeting on Tuesday, May 28th.

8. Possible new society initiatives: Dr. Honey requested that the Board support a link to the WSSFN website which takes an individual to information regarding a new initiative. (neurologicalaid.org) One area on the website explains a registry for patients with DBS who undergo ECT. A website has been constructed with the approval of Dr. Honey's Institutional Review Board. It will allow clinicians to enter data on the success or potential complications from using ECT in patients with DBS. Clinicians would then have free access to the anonymous data. The other portion is a sharing point where neurosurgeons or industry can share information on frames that might be available for those centers requesting help in obtaining them. The site could also serve as an area where other neurosurgeons could volunteer to assist others in using frames. There was some discussion about the use of donated frames that may not be as up-to-date or dependable as new a new frame, but overall this did not appear to be an issue and the Board agreed to support the request.

9. Other business: Dr. Hodaie mentioned that there was some travel grant funds not used because awardees had last minute Visa difficulties. She suggested that funds be carried over to the next meeting for use in offering travel grants. The Board agreed.

Dr. Taira closed the meeting by thanking the Board for all their support through his presidency. The Board members thanked him in return for his all hard work and efforts in growing the society. The meeting was adjourned and approximately 10:30 pm.