

From the President

Another year, another ISCEV newsletter: What has been relevant for ISCEV in the past year? Currently foremost in my mind is the production of the Documenta Ophthalmologica special issue that will contain the abstracts of the 2006 symposium, to be distributed at the symposium itself. Will it be released in time? It appears that a traditional problem with our journal is carried on across publishers. While every single person I phoned at the publisher's was friendly and willing to help, the hurdles may be insurmountable – the main problem is outsourcing: two separate stages (typesetting and printing) of the process take place in another continent rather than in the Netherlands! If the printed books are indeed available for the symposium, this is mostly thanks to Florence Rigaudière and Jean-François Le Gargasson who first prepared all of our abstracts (on time!) and then rapidly integrated our proof-reading results and forwarded them to the publisher.



Proof-reading takes me to another issue, namely the barriers within our 'common' English language. First, please, all you native speakers, do keep us in mind as your audience! Second, I want to highlight the importance of language skills in writing papers. As a rule there is no rule to English, so one has to learn the hard way. We had some formal attempts to address this within ISCEV with little concrete outcome as yet. So I'd like to appeal to you to capitalise on the value of the ISCEV family spirit. Do not hesitate to approach experienced colleagues to help you with your manuscript draft! I am perfectly sure all such members are ready to help.

Probably the best way to get to know your fellow members is the annual ISCEV Symposium. Let's briefly (there's more later in the newsletter) recall the 2005 Symposium: Accompanied by excellent weather conditions (for that region, that is), the organising team, orchestrated by Daphne McCulloch –when not wearing her Secretary General hat–, overcame all the usual problems admirably. They presented an excellent scientific program; the Glaswegian social program laudably took account of local spirit and customs, and a jolly good time was had by all. A first was the ISCEV band, consisting of two board members on guitar and piano, two younger members, Charlotte Poloschek, bass, and Michael Hoffmann, trumpet, and a totally relaxed local student, Jack MacNeil, playing drums. Although clearly an ISCEV band is not required by our by-laws, the sound was apparently up to ISCEV standards. The latter term again reminds me of English spelling rules, or lack thereof, but I already commented on that

I am eagerly looking forward to the Symposium programme prepared for us by Florence Rigaudière and her team. It will be preceded by the ISCEV course in Paris, organised by Isabelle Audo and Graham E Holder. Some may approach Fontevraud on bicycles,

and we should applaud Pierre Lachapelle for again organising such physical exercises preparing for scientific workout at the meeting.

Many of you recently met at ARVO, in particular at our pre-conference meeting, ISCEV@ARVO, perfectly organised (I hear) by John Chen and Don Hood. That occasion also sported the first distribution of the ISCEV flyer. Thank you all for the many important contributions to make it perfect – at least, I still have not found a typo in the present version – did I mention the difficulties of the English language? The ISCEV flyer is meant to be an ongoing asset for us, to be regularly updated and distributed at all possible relevant occasions. Please approach our Secretary-General Daphne McCulloch for samples to distribute.

Her message in this newsletter looks at the history of ISCEV. It transpires that we will have the 50th anniversary in 2008! Amazing! Time for a change? Actually, change is an ongoing aspect of science. For ISCEV in particular we may want to recognise our widening scope in functional assessment. How do we recognise these changes? Change of the name endangers the 'brand' so to speak, but Pierre Lachapelle had some creative suggestions that would keep the acronym. While one might play with a name change, we should also turn our thoughts to other ways that ISCEV will grow in its scope and encompass new developments.

There are so many people I would like to thank – ISCEV would not be alive without constant contributions from you, the members, whether as a formal ISCEV officer or an individual member helping to advance the clinical, scientific and social net we weave. I thank you and look forward to seeing you!

Michael Bach, PhD, President of ISCEV

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The Secretary-General keeps the archives and records. As we were busy in Glasgow with hosting the 2005 Symposium in August, it was rather late in my inaugural year as Secretary-General before Colin Barber transferred this material to me. Although the archives of ISCEV are rather modest in size: three boxes of books and papers dating back to 1958 and one sleek CD (1.0 GB) of business and correspondence since 1990, it was an unexpected pleasure to explore their contents. I will use this message to share with you a few insights from our history.

The ISCEV archives begin with a carefully kept logbook; the first entry, from August 1958, is a letter from Prof Harold E Henkes (Netherlands) to Prof Gösta Karpe (Sweden) in which he asks for

“... your opinion regarding my idea of organising at this very moment those men who are doing clinical electroretinography seriously in some sort of society or club in order to try to set up a specification of apparatus etc. to be used and to specify standard conditions ... and to found some small international society of electroretinography, which society must have enough authority to reach results. ...In such an organisation experimental electrophysiologists would be welcome but the main aim is to organise the clinical people.”

Thus, the first plan for our society was linked with setting standards, a task that remains at the centre of our activities today and, then as now, the main focus was on the clinical people. The following month, they organised a special meeting in Brussels during the XVIII International Congress of Ophthalmology. This meeting was held at 09:00 on 10 September 1958, at the Café Cap d'Argent. As detailed in the hand-written minutes of that first meeting, the International Society for Clinical Electroretinography (ISERG) was created, its aims and activities were outlined and a membership structure was agreed. The 17 inaugural members consisted of a board of officers, an advisory board, committee members (including Alfred De Rouck whose life is remembered in this newsletter) and honorary member, Prof Ragnar Granit; the meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Professors Karpe and Henkes served together on the board of IS-CERG for 14 years as president and secretary-general respectively. Prof Karpe was elected president in 1973 and served a further 10 years.

ISCERG developed rapidly. Within five years there were nearly 200 members who had organised two international symposia and two general scientific meetings. Sub-committee reports had been considered regarding stimulus and recording procedures, terminology, procedure and measurement. ISERG publications were vital to its members in that pre-digital era. The first publication was a bibliography covering the period of 1885-1960. This was updated with regular newsletters that contained not only news and announcements, but also case reports and abstracts of the latest scientific papers. The photo shows the 1963 Board meeting at the IS-ERG Symposium held in Rotterdam, just five years after its inception.

By the early 1970, ISCERG was the focus of expertise not only for electroretinography but also for other electrophysiological tests of the visual system. The society's change of name receives rather brief mention in the archives; an entry in the minutes of the 1976 Board meeting in Louisville states, “Since not only the Board, but also the members have the feeling that the name of the Society is too limited, mentioning only the ‘ERG’, it is proposed to alter the name of our Society.” The proposed new name, the ‘International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology – ISCEV’, was circulated by newsletter for comment and in 1977 our present name was unanimously approved at the Board and the Membership meetings in Ghent, Belgium. Thus, the XV Symposium in Morioka, Japan was the first to carry our current name, ISCEV.

Our founders contributed so much to our understanding of physiology and disease and they witnessed immense changes in technology and communications. However, what struck me in scanning the archives was that so many of the themes are unchanged: promoting membership, encouraging timely membership payments, organising elections, planning Symposia and promoting better clinical standards. Throughout the archive too, I noticed that familiar feeling of enjoyment of the companionable atmosphere of ISCEV.

Daphne L McCulloch OD, PhD, Secretary-General



Board meeting of ISCERG, Rotterdam, Sept 11, 1963: HE Henkes (Secretary-General), A Francoise (VP), JH Jacobson (Editor), HM Burian (Secretary-Western Hemisphere), A Nakajima (Secretary-Far East) Mrs Karpe (guest) and G Karpe (President). Absent A Francheschetti (VP) & W Straub (Treasurer).
[Photobureau John Klaver, Rotterdam]

From the Director of Education

The main ISCEV educational event of last year took place in Glasgow in association with the annual meeting. The faculty of Drs Bach, Hogg, Hood, Holder and Kellner provided a comprehensive Course that was reported by the participants to be interesting, informative and enjoyable. The commercial exhibitors are thanked for providing equipment for teaching and their help with the demonstrations. Ruth Hamilton, the local organiser, and her team are thanked for the huge efforts they put in to ensure a highly successful Course. The ISCEV Course this year will take place in Paris, apart from the main symposium in Fontevraud. We are very grateful to Professor Jose Sahel for offering facilities at L'Hopital Des Quinze-Vingts, and thanks are also due to Isabelle Audo, who has performed exceptionally and tirelessly in her role of local organiser. The faculty remains unchanged from last year.

ISCEV approved Courses were run in London at Moorfields, in Munich by Thomas Berninger and in Berlin by Ulrich Kellner and Klaus Rütger. The Moorfields Course took place in March with a faculty consisting of Drs Arden, Audo, Bach, Hogg, Holder, Jenkins, Leroy, Niemeyer, Robson (AG), and Thompson. The Course in Munich was organised in May by Thomas Berninger with a faculty of Drs Arden, Bach, Berninger, Besch, Hogg, Holder, Krastel, Meigen, Neubauer, Palmowski, Rudolph and Wildberger. The faculty for the Berlin Course comprised Drs Bach, Kellner, Lapp and Rütger.

Patrizia Tormene will run an ISCEV approved Course in Padua in October. The faculty includes ISCEV members Falsini, Holder,

Keating, Macaluso, Niemeyer and Parisi. The annual Course run by Drs Kellner and Rütger will take place in Siegburg this year, also in October, with additional faculty members Bach and Lapp. Short teaching Courses and scientific sessions (such as special interest symposia) with an electrophysiology theme are scheduled to take place at the EVER meeting in Villamoura in October, and, with a paediatric theme, at the SOE meeting in Vienna in June 2007. The speakers are yet to be finalised for SOE, but ISCEV members Barber, Hawlina, Holder, Leroy and Spileers will be among the contributors at EVER.

Next year's ISCEV Meeting will take place in Hyderabad, India. Having run an ISCEV Course there before, we anticipate and look forward to a very enjoyable return visit. It is expected that the Course will take place in association with and immediately prior to the main ISCEV symposium to be organised by Subhadra Jalali.

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 website.

Finally, having previously served as Board Member appointed to the role, I would like to thank the membership for their vote of confidence in making me the first elected Director of Education.

Graham E Holder PhD, Director of Education

In Memoriam – Dr. Alfred De Rouck (1926–2005)



Dr Alfred De Rouck, a pioneer of clinical electrophysiology, passed away on July 1, 2005. Many ISCEV members honed their trade with "Freddy", a great teacher who liked to do the recordings himself. Many of us remember the single flash stimuli, the long printouts from penwriters and scleral contact lens electrode with a saline wick, which eliminated the photovoltaic artifact and in our opinion was one of the best ever made.

From over 100 of his publications, his 1974 report "L'electro-diagnostic des affections rétiniennees" with François, Cambie and Zanen is a classic work that deserves special recognition. Dr De Rouck's techniques, clinical studies and case reports remain very valuable as we discover the genetic properties and molecular mechanisms of many disorders. It is no surprise that he was chosen to write the first chapter on the history of the ERG in the first two editions of "Principles and practice of Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (Heckenlively & Arden eds).

Perhaps the most important contribution is his work on the EOG. In 1955 and 1956, De Rouck wrote three landmark articles on the modification of EOG amplitude by light and dark adaptation and

the use of the EOG as a functional test, pioneering research that laid the foundation for the Lp/Dt-ratio as a clinical measure.

Freddy was a founding member of ISCERG (and subsequently a member of ISCEV) and he was the organizer of a wonderful ISCERG symposium in Gent, which remains the subject of conversation at current meetings. He last attended the ISCEV meeting in Leuven in 2002. Dr De Rouck's soft-spoken sincere manner, his rock-solid integrity, and outstanding quality as a clinical electrophysiologist, physician and teacher, will be remembered by those fortunate enough to know him. Dr De Rouck was a truly grand gentleman.

*from the obituary submitted to Documenta Ophthalmologica by
Monique Leys, MD & J. Vernon Odom, PhD, WVU Eye Institute
Bart P Leroy, MD, Dr A De Rouck Unit for Visual Electrophysiology,
Ghent University Hospital
Jean-Jacques De Laey, MD, PhD, Ghent University Hospital*

From the Director of Standards



This past year has been quite an interesting one with regard to the evolving role of the ISCEV standards. Revisions of the PERG and EOG standards are well underway and I would like to thank Graham Holder and Malcolm Brown for leading this effort. It is still possible that both of these updates will be ready for approval at the upcoming annual meeting. Revisions for the Calibration standard and mfERG guidelines are scheduled for 2007. Please let me know if you would like to participate actively in the early stages of this process.

As chair of the EOG revision, Malcolm Brown has raised a number of interesting points regarding the goals and role of our standards. As originally conceived, the role of ISCEV standards is to provide a minimal standard for a technically adequate procedure for routine clinical testing. As such, I think that our standards have been quite successful as evidenced by an increasing number of commercially available systems that are capable of meeting the ISCEV standard; the large number of published studies that use the ISCEV standard protocol and, presumably, a global improvement in the contribution of clinical electrophysiology to patient diagnosis and management. However, Malcolm has noted that the standards as written allow for extensive variation in both stimulus and recording conditions, making them almost useless for a new investigator or clinician who is setting up a laboratory, or for comparison of results across laboratories. This has resulted in a new, more prescriptive EOG

standard with options for reporting variation from the standard procedure. Please have a look at this revised EOG standard and provide feedback to Malcolm and me regarding your thoughts on this change.

Another potential change to ISCEV standards occurred to me following Wiley Chambers' and Eberhardt Zrenner's presentations at the 2005 meeting. Professor Zrenner gave many practical examples of how, when using visual electrophysiology to test the efficacy and safety of drugs, protocols should be designed to address a specific question based upon our knowledge of the drug mechanism of action and the properties of the electrophysiological signal. In contrast to this, Dr. Chambers of the FDA basically stated that when requesting ERGs to demonstrate the safety or efficacy of new treatments, he always requests that the ISCEV standard be followed. He stated that if this is not the appropriate advice, he would look to ISCEV to provide published guidance regarding what protocol to use to address specific issues. This leads to the possibility of producing disease related standards rather than technology related standards. Would it be advisable for ISCEV to have a standard to address measurement of treatment effects for diseases such as glaucoma, ARMD, retinitis pigmentosa, retinal vein occlusion, optic neuritis etc.? If so, how would we go about validating such a standard? I welcome feedback from the membership regarding this idea. If we could come up with a path forward for the development of disease related standards, I think that it would be very useful to the ophthalmologic community.

I look forward to seeing many of you in France and to share ideas regarding the evolution of ISCEV standards

Mitchell Brigell PhD, Director of Standards

From the Director of International Communications

The ISCEV website continues to evolve. We have incorporated some modifications to the site including a new section on relevant new books. There was some interest in a 'History of ISCEV' section and this will be addressed in the near future. We already have a wealth of material and some excellent offers from the more senior members of our society. It was nice to meet up with many of you at the symposium in Glasgow last year especially with some people for whom previous communication had only been by email.

Having been involved in organising the 2005 symposium, like many Glasgow ISCEV members, I am looking forward to the Fontevraud meeting. Please contact me if you have any comments, or suggestions, for the site, or any other communication matter or speak to me directly in Fontevraud.

David Keating PhD, Director of International Communications

XLIII Symposium Special Session: Drug Development and Clinical Trials

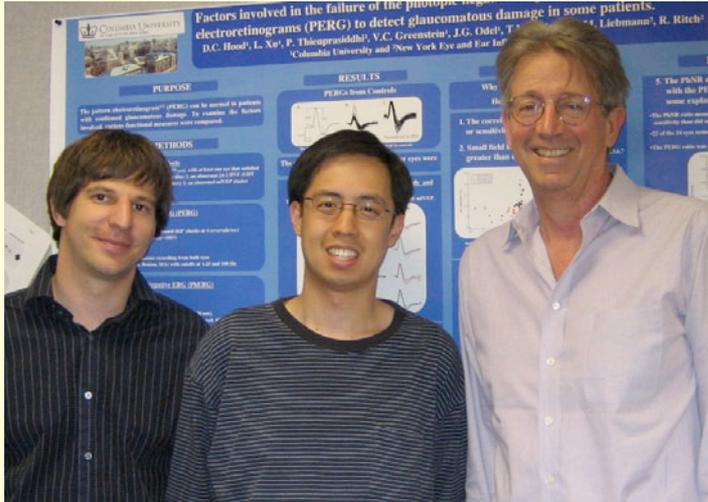
During the Glaswegian Symposium Mitch Brigell organised a special session "Drug Development and Clinical Trials" (at Loch Lomond), where amongst other excellent speakers Wiley A. Chambers was invited. He is the Deputy Director of the Division of Anti-Infective and Ophthalmology Products for the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). His topic was "Electroretinography: The FDA's Viewpoint" where he provided most valuable insights from the regulatory perspective. He is faced with the task of applying our findings and standards to drug safety issues. For instance, for drugs the benefit-to-risk ratio always needs to be assessed, as there is no benefit without side effect, and higher benefits can cancel higher risks. To be counted as "effect" usually changes greater than

40% are recognised. A doubling (or halving) of visual angle is seen as a significant change of visual acuity. A question to us is whether, and if so, whether there is some equivalent measure with the ERG—clearly not a trivial matter.

For all of you who want to refresh your memory or to acquaint yourself with these relevant issues, there is good news: acting on a suggestion by Stuart Coupland, I approached Dr Chambers whether he were ready to make his presentation available to us. He was happy to help and his presentation file is now available on our website at <www.iscev.org/misc/Chambers2005ISCEV-FDA.ppt>.

Michael Bach

Americas



By any objective standard, ISCEV@ARVO2006 was a huge success this year. 94 people registered and had the pleasure of hearing an excellent program of 21 presentations. The meeting went smoothly thanks to the organisational skills of Dr. John Chen. All papers were electronically presented and this too went smoothly thanks to the help of Dr. Adam Wenick. John and Adam, future ophthalmologists, are shown with me in the accompanying photo.

Don Hood, PhD, Vice-President for the Americas

Europe and Africa

Still the only national ISCEV-affiliated society in Europe, the British society, BriSCEV, held its annual meeting in conjunction with the main ISCEV symposium in Glasgow. The organisers, Stuart Parks and his team, produced a splendid meeting which preserved the BriSCEV meeting's special identity, whilst offering participants the advantages of access to the larger meeting. It came at the cost of extra organisational effort, and we owe them all a great vote of thanks.

This year also saw the first ever "ISCEV4EVER" session at the European Vision and Eye Research meeting at Vilamoura in Portugal. Although the concept was copied from the well established "ISCEV@ARVO" meeting, there was an important difference in that it has a definite proselytising role in this early stage of its development. With this in mind, we put together a varied programme to illustrate the usefulness of electrophysiological investigations, with speakers from the US and Canada, as well as Europe. The session was very well received, with the (admittedly rather small) room being filled to capacity. Feedback was highly appreciative, and we were invited to repeat the session this year. The programme is already in place, chaired by stalwart EVER participant Pierre Lachapelle. You can find details of this, and the whole conference at www.ever.be under 'Conferences'. Many thanks to last year's presenters and to this year's volunteers. In addition, there is an electrophysiology course, run by Graham Holder, and this year the EVER Lecture is titled "The Evolution of Electrical Responses from the Eye" and given by ISCEV honorary member Nick Galloway. 2006 is your last chance to experience the beautiful coast and climate of southern Portugal in October, so, if you're thinking of attending, enjoy!

Looking forward to 2007, The EVER meeting will be organised by our new ISCEV board member, Marko Hawlina. ISCEV members are certainly doing their bit in Europe!

Colin Barber PhD, Vice-president for Europe and Africa

Asia and Oceania

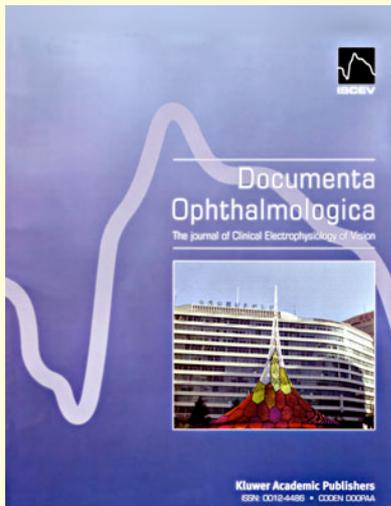
The 53rd Meeting of the Japanese Society of Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (JSCEV) was held at Miyazaki, southern part of Japan, on 10-11 February, 2006. The organiser of that meeting was Professor Naoi, chairman of department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, Miyazaki University. In this meeting, we had 33 oral presentations, two symposia, "To evaluate inner retina and optic nerve with electrophysiological methods" and "Molecular biology and electrophysiology in vision", and the first meeting to evaluate visual function. In the meeting of visual function, the main theme was "Surgery and Visual Function". About 205 doctors and 88 students of Kyusyu University of Health and Welfare attended the JSCEV. Next JSCEV will be held at Nagoya organised by Professor Horiguchi at the end of March, 2007.

53rd JSCEV Banquet. Arrow: Professor Uji, president of JSCEV. Open arrowhead: Professor Naoi, organiser of the 53rd JSCEV meeting. Arrowhead: Professor Horiguchi, organiser of the 54th JSCEV meeting.



Atsushi Mizota, MD, Vice President Asia & Oceania

This is the first report that I am writing as the new Editor of the Society's journal, Documenta Ophthalmologica, having taken over just last fall from the former Editor, J. Vernon Odom, who had generously served for two terms. In addition to gaining a new Editor, the journal has undergone several other changes over the past year. Importantly, we have a new contract with the publisher that will be in effect through 2008. The contract that our president, Professor Michael Bach signed in October 2005 with Springer-Verlag GmbH (Springer) allows the journal to have up to 384 pages per year, in six issues, of scientific material, which may include, at no extra cost, the Society's annual meeting abstracts. A bonus is that, starting with Volume 111 (2005), the



journal has free colour illustrations. Another significant change is that we have made a complete transition to web-based electronic management of the submission and review process. The web-based "editorial manager" went live on 12 August 2005, and is now the only portal for submitting manuscripts to the journal. The on-line editorial manager will make submission and review of papers simpler and more efficient, and it will provide a means for tracking the progress of each manuscript through the whole editorial process. The effectiveness of the editorial manager is greatly enhanced by the efforts of Diana Epstein of Di-Ep Biomedical Editorial Services, who has been hired by Springer to administer the editorial office and to supervise the online submission process for the journal. Diana monitors the progress of each submission and seems to know the solution to every problem that is met by editors, authors and reviewers. She also keeps the editor on her toes. If you have questions about manuscript submission, Diana may be contacted at Doc-oph@di-ep.com. Finally, a welcome change that I anticipate will become apparent a little later this year when the Journal Citation Report is published, is that Documenta will once again have an impact factor.

Although the Editor of the journal has changed, I am happy to report that the Associate Editors (Drs. Scott Brodie, Mineo Kondo and Michael Bach) so carefully selected in the past, have agreed to continue their service to the journal and that, to my knowledge, no member of the editorial board has resigned.

Beyond the editors, the editorial board and the editorial manager with its supervisor, the journal is critically dependent for its success upon the community of contributing authors, reviewers and readers. Authors are asked to consider Documenta Ophthalmologica as a possible venue for their papers whenever the subject matter is appropriate because, without sufficient contributions, the journal cannot thrive, indeed will not even survive. Reviewers are asked to take their responsibilities seriously, to evaluate critically, but fairly, and to act as quickly as their thought processes allow. Readers are asked to give the editors feedback, and all members of the Society are encouraged to be careful to cite as fully as appropriate, the scientific content of the journal in their publications.

Returning to the issue of submissions, only 41 manuscripts were submitted in 2005, 31 were original research reports, nine were case reports, and one was a review. So far this year we have received 26 manuscripts — 19 original research papers, three case

reports, three book reviews and one letter. Four of the 19 original research manuscripts were deemed inappropriate and were rejected without review, as they described surgical approaches, or clinical cases where functional assessments of interest to Society were not included. To date, only seven of the research papers that I have taken through the editorial process have progressed to being accepted, and I am definitely worrying about filling future issues. Again I urge you to support the journal. Please consider proposing a review, or a special issue on a favourite area of research, such as the one on "*Electrophysiologic assessment of the mouse visual system*" that is described in a separate announcement below this report. Submissions of relevant methodological papers/technical notes also would be welcome. In closing, I remind you to place the address of the editorial manager, <http://doop.edmgr.com> in the 'favourites' list of your internet browser.

Laura Frishman Editor-in-Chief,
Documenta Ophthalmologica

Announcement of a special issue:

DOOP Editor-in-Chief, Laura Frishman, PhD, is soliciting papers for a feature issue. The Special Editors for this feature issue are Bill Ridder, OD, PhD, Neal Peachey, PhD, and Mathias Seeliger, MD, PhD. Additional details are below.

Topic: *Electrophysiologic assessment of the mouse visual system.*

Feature Issue: scheduled for mid-Winter 2007.

Deadline for Submissions: Friday, October 27, 2006.

A feature issue provides the opportunity for your work to be published alongside similar subject matter. Feature issues generally result in a number of important and highly-cited papers. It is intended that this feature issue will reflect the considerable research activity that has occurred recently in studies of mouse visual pathways and various mouse models of human visual disease. In particular, we are interested in manuscripts that employ electrophysiological tests in normal and genetically altered mice to:

- understand normal function of the visual pathways
- understand the relationship between retinal structure and function
- further elucidate retinal disease processes
- monitor therapy for retinal disease

Instructions: Manuscripts must be submitted online (<http://doop.edmgr.com>) and should be prepared according to the instructions to authors at that website. Please indicate that your paper is being submitted for this feature issue. Manuscripts will be subjected to peer review under the editorial guidance of Bill Ridder, OD, PhD (wridder@scco.edu), Neal Peachey, PhD (peachen@ccf.org) and Mathias Seeliger (see@uni-tuebingen.de). While the focus of the feature issue is on original research, proposals for reviews or perspectives may be sent to the special Editors for approval prior to preparation and submission of the manuscript.

Please contact Diana Epstein at the Editorial Office DOOP <Doc_Oph@di-ep.com> if you have questions about manuscript submissions.

Treasurer's Report

The accompanying spreadsheet displays the financial situation of our society. The final data for 2004 and 2005 are shown and an estimate for 2006 is presented. In contrast to previous years the figures are given in Euro, as all funds except for the US Dollar account are held in Euro. The accounting and tax records must be reported in Euro as well. We will not have to pay tax as long as our income does not exceed our expenditure.

As before, publication and symposium pre-financing are the major liabilities, the latter with huge variability between years depending on the necessities of each organisers local situation. One term on the income side as been added: Symposium income through treasurers office is money that is paid for e.g. a symposium or the teaching course via the credit card facilities established by the treasurer. Reduced by the credit card charges, the money is then transferred to the symposium organiser (included in symposium financing). This and the increased use of the ISCEV online payment system have increased credit card handling charges, but reduced check handling charges.

The financial situation is rather stable, mostly based on a stable membership. Currently 270 members have paid for 2004, 259 for 2005 and 242 for 2006. This is not a real decline in the membership, as some (few) members pay late and I expect about 20 further members still to pay for 2006. I have cautiously calculated a small financial deficit for 2006, but it is also possible to nearly break even. Please note that symposium pre-financing (e.g. 25.000 Euros required in 2005 for 2006) indicates that ISCEV needs a sufficient financial reserve to pre-finance at least two meetings if required. Please contact me with any questions relating to this report and thank you again for reducing my workload by using the online payment system.

Ulrich Kellner, MD, Treasurer of ISCEV

Treasurers Report

(Euro)

	2004 closed	2005 closed	2006 estimated
Income			
Membership dues	29.227,95	27.138,00	27.000,00
Symposium income through treasurers office	0,00	28.638,16	9.000,00
Bank account interests	1.493,39	1.102,97	1.000,00
Publisher editorial payment	8.264,17	3.975,00	3.000,00
Symposium return (income & returned pre-financing)	0,00	19.128,63	15.000,00
Other income	0,00	500,00	0,00
Total Income	38.985,51	80.482,76	55.000,00
Expenditure			
Check handling fees, bank charges	1.468,13	532,17	600,00
Credit card handling fees	1.347,27	2.558,88	2.800,00
Internet services	1.135,26	162,58	200,00
Lawyer	3.297,32	131,10	0,00
Accounting	0,00	1.044,00	1.100,00
Secretary general office	4.697,91	4.227,60	5.000,00
Treasurers office	255,27	540,62	1.000,00
Editors office	4.098,00	1.062,50	1.962,00
Publishing DOOP	27.825,00	31.561,50	32.000,00
Symposium financing	44.095,50	46.302,48	16.335,68
Travel grants	2.904,85	2.457,20	4.000,00
Total Expenditure	91.124,51	90.580,63	64.997,68
Balance			
Total Income - Total Expenditure	-52.139,00	-10.097,87	-9.997,68
Assets (as of 31.12.200x)			
USD Account	906,73	12.591,99	11.500,00
EURO Account	6.402,89	12.765,81	12.500,00
Deposit	136.394,27	108.624,58	100.000,00
Total Assets	143.703,89	133.982,38	124.000,00

Recollections of a Symposium



Opening night and the Victorian Splendor of the Glasgow City Chambers

It was a great honour for the ISCEV members of Glasgow to host the XLIII ISCEV Annual Symposium between 23 and 27 August 2005. This was the first ever ISCEV Symposium to be held in Scotland and it was pleasing that it was so well attended. We are indebted to all members of the local team who worked above and beyond the call of duty to make the meeting such a success.

The symposium was preceded by the ISCEV Course and by the Annual Meeting of the British Chapter of ISCEV (BriSCEV) and many participants stayed on to the ISCEV Symposium. The themes for the scientific programme were “The development and the decline of the the visual system” and “The effects of nutrition, drugs or toxins on the visual system”. The programme included 55 oral presentations and 94 poster presentations. The symposium opened with an invited Introductory Lecture entitled “Retinal function in infants and children with retinopathy of prematurity” given by Dr A. Fulton of the Children’s Hospital in Boston. The 2005 ISCEV Scientific Lecture “Is a low pH the trigger for retinal or choroidal neovascularisation?” was given by Prof W. Foulds, CBE, Emeritus Professor of the University of Glasgow and Senior Consultant of the Singapore Eye Research Institute.



Wired for action during the ISCEV Course Demonstration

In response to a request from the membership at the previous symposium in Puerto Rico, the symposium included a Special Session on “Drug Development and Clinical Trials – the Role of Visual Electrophysiology” superbly organised by Dr Mitch Brigell from Pfizer Research of Ann Arbor. Additional copies of the symposium abstract book are available from ISCEV Publications c/o Prof Daphne McCulloch, General Secretary.

The social programme commenced with an opening reception in the city’s grand Victorian City Chambers as guests of the Lord Provost of Glasgow. The following evening saw a reception hosted



by John Hamilton, a lawyer. John presented four fascinating cases (of Whisky) from across Scotland. Following detailed guidance on how to taste the whisky, the delegates formed the jury to decide which was the best. The result was a split verdict! The evening continued over a relaxed meal accompanied by the mellow sounds of the very accomplished “ISCEV Rocks” band. We hope to receive an encore at later date.



The Special Scientific Session was held one morning on the “bonnie banks” of Loch Lomond enabling delegates to enjoy the rest of the day in the Central Highlands, visiting Inverary Castle, and viewing dramatic lochs and mountains. It rained a little providing us with some beautiful rainbows. The evening culminated in the ISCEV Highland Games back on the “bonnie banks”.

“By yon bonnie banks, / And by yon bonnie braes,
Where the sun shines bright on Loch Lomond,
Where me and my true love / Were ever want to gae,
On the bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond.”

The closing banquet was held in the ceremonial Bute Hall at the University of Glasgow. Delegates were led into dinner by the bagpipes and treated to the theatre of the traditional address to the haggis. Diners enjoyed an entertaining film and re-enactment by Dr David Keating and Dr Stuart Parks of the first ever human ERG recordings; which were recorded in Scotland by J Dewar and JG McKendrick in 1877. Diner was followed by a Ceilidh, which in good tradition continued into the wee small hours.

“Haste ye back”

Michael Bradnam PhD, for the Local Organising Committee

Recollections of a Symposium



Subhadra Jalaili, organiser, of the upcoming 45th Symposium in Hyderabad, India, enjoys the ISCEV Band with Vaegan, (organiser of the 38th ISCEV Symposium in Australia).



ISCEV Highland Games Games at Loch Lomond



Enjoying the many aspects of Scottish hospitality



Photo credits: Marko Hawlina, Fadi Nasser, David Nicol, Matias Seeliger & anonymous CD

Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland; 16:00, 26 August, 2005,

Opening: The president, Prof Michael Bach opened the meeting at 14:04, welcomed ISCEV members, especially the new members to the annual meeting and introduced the Executive Board. He thanked Prof Yozo Miyake (ISCEV president 1999-2003) who has retired as advisory member of the ISCEV Board at the end of 2004.

Minutes of the 2004 ISCEV Membership Meeting: The minutes as printed in the ISCEV 2005 Newsletter (NL) were accepted as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising (except those already on this agenda).

Report of the Symposium Organiser Prof McCulloch reported that 206 delegates, 55 accompanying people and seven children registered for the ISCEV Symposium. The XLIII symposium of ISCEV (23-27 August, 2005) comprised 149 scientific presentations: 49 oral and 94 posters proffered papers, six invited presentations and a scientific lecture. The ISCEV teaching course attracted 60 participants.

ISCEV Officers' Reports

Report of the Treasurer, as printed in the 2005NL, was approved unanimously by the members present. The treasurer, Prof Kellner, explained that expenditure exceeded income in 2004 primarily because of the timing of the pre-financing of annual symposia. Expenses for Symposia in 2004, 2005 and 2006 were drawn against this financial year.

Report of the Vice President Asia/Oceania was updated. Prof Miyake has retired as president of the Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision and Prof Yukiitaka Uji is elected as the JSCEV president from 2005.

Other reports are printed in the 2005 newsletter without additional information.

Report of the ISCEV Board of Directors Meeting

ISCEV travel grants have been unchanged for 15 years. The Board proposed increasing their value as follows: raise each of the three regional travel grants to \$500 (US dollars) from the existing value of \$300 and raise each of the three overseas travel grants to \$1,000 from the current level of \$800. After brief discussion this received unanimous support by the members present by show of hands.

Themes for the XLV Symposium (2007, Hyderabad) were announced: "Defining retinal dystrophies: the role of ocular electrophysiology in genotype-phenotype correlation" and "The evolving role of the VEP in neuro-ophthalmology"

Guidelines for Symposium Organisers were approved. These will be regularly updated and are available on request.

The future of the ISCEV Journal

Prof Colin Barber summarised the report of the Documenta Ophthalmologica working party: the re-negotiated contract with Springer gives electronic access, a paper journal, the right to attach a PDF to web sites and a better chance of early restoration of the impact factor at a lower cost than the other options. After brief discussion members present voted to accept the new Springer contract. The Board thanked the working party for their efforts, which contributed substantially to the improved contract. Vernon

Odom (editor) asked authors to be vigilant during the changeover as revisions will need to be submitted using a new online format.

2005 Elections to the ISCEV Board of Directors: (83 voting members present)

Treasurer: Prof Ulrich Kellner was re-elected to his second term (2006-2009), by show of hands.

Director of Education: Dr Graham Holder (appointed DoE when serving as a member-at-large) was elected by show of hands.

Journal Editor: Professors Laura Frishman and Pierre Lachapelle received majority support by ballot and will go forward to a postal vote by the full membership.

Member at Large: Professors Marko Hawlina and Carol Westall received majority support and the highest number of votes from the members present and will go forward for election. The Board thanked Drs Brad Fortune and Serge Rosolen for their willingness to stand.

Future ISCEV Symposia

Dr Florence Rigaudière gave an engaging presentation and updated us on the plans for the XLIV ISCEV Symposium in Fontevraud 11-16 June 2006, to be preceded by the ISCEV Course in Paris.

Dr Subhadra Jalali presented a lively invitation to XLV ISCEV Symposium and course in Hyderabad – 25-29 August 2007.

Invitations for the XLVI ISCEV Symposium in the Americas in 2008 were offered by Dr Mitchell Brigell (Ann Arbor, Michigan) and Prof J Vernon Odom (Morgantown West Virginia). These locations received majority support and will go forward for election by the membership. ballot (*Morgantown was subsequently selected*)

XLVII ISCEV Symposium (2009) –invitations were announced from Slovenia (Prof Hawlina and Dr Breclj) and from Padova Italy (Dr A Patrizia Tormene)

There was no other business; the meeting closed at 18:06.

Daphne McCulloch

The Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award 2005

In this 10th year, Mrs. Elke Dodt, supporter and widow of Prof. Dodt, was in attendance to present the 2005 Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award to an outstanding young scientist at the ISCEV Symposium.

The recipient, Dr Ruth E Hamilton, is a native of Scotland. She attained a BSc (hons) in Physics at the University of Birmingham and a MSc in Bioengineering at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. Ruth took up a clinical research post at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow in 1996 to undertake a study of visual development in infants using VEPs. Following that year, Ruth was appointed as a medical physicist at that hospital with responsibility for electrodiagnostic services in ophthalmology, audiology and neurology. Simultaneously, she undertook her PhD studies at Glasgow University with Dr Michael Bradnam and Dr Helen Mactier, work which she completed just a few months before the 2005 ISCEV Symposium. It was for presenting this work, "The ERG in premature infants", that she won the Award this year.

Ruth was the local organiser of the ISCEV teaching course, which preceded the 2005 ISCEV Symposium and a member of the organising committee. Those who met her and her husband John (chair and speaker at the whisky tasting event) will be pleased to know that their second child, Elizabeth, was born on 12 September and has already offered her ERG as normative data.

In presenting the award Mrs Dodt reflected on its foundation and purpose:

By now, with the tenth award of this prize to support young scientists working in the field of the Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision, it has in a small way acquired its own tradition. It always fills me with gratitude that the award was made possible through the generous donations from colleagues and former pupils of my husband after his death, which produced the capital to fund it. This is what has spurred me on to do what is within my power to ensure the prize's future material basis: from the proceeds of the two benefit concerts, in 2000 and 2003, at Bad Nauheim; from the donations made on the occasion of my own special birthday; or as was the case this year, from a notable contribution made by my Service Club "Zonta International".

Reflecting on appropriate topics for my speech at this year's award ceremony, Albert Einstein, Bad Nauheim and Max Planck occurred to me. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of Einstein's death and the centenary of his Special Theory of Relativity, which he established in 1905 with his publication "Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter Körper" But what have Bad Nauheim and Max Planck to do with this, and, above all, what relevance is there to the award of the Eberhard Dodt prize?

The answer is that it was at Bad Nauheim, in September 1920, eighty-five years ago, that Albert Einstein defended this theory of relativity at the annual conference of the "Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte" (Association of German Scientists and Physicians), a forum of worldwide renown for lectures and discussions. The discussion after his paper was led by Max Planck.

This brings us back to our award of a prize today. It derives from a very different scientific field, electrophysiological research in vision at Bad Nauheim, in the Max-Planck-Institute. Here too a remark of Einstein's is valid: that the imagination is more important than knowledge, since knowledge is limited. This I interpret to mean that when scientists with imagination, supported by their professional qualifications, carry on their researches, the boundaries of knowledge are being stretched out ever wider. The widening of our knowledge, in particular in the field of medicine, always means that there is a chance to conquer illnesses, to help suffering people, and to make possible what yesterday still seemed to be impossible.



To make a modest contribution to these aims is the intention behind the Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award. It is a stimulus to expand the boundaries of what can be achieved further than previously seemed possible. Out of a number of very well qualified pieces of work the jury considers your research results, Dr Hamilton, to be particularly praiseworthy. I congratulate you on this with all my heart and wish you imagination, good fortune, and success in your future professional career!"

On the strength of the scientific presentations, the Awards Panel also honoured two young scientists for their highly commended papers; Dr Gil Ben-Shlomo for his presentation, "COP-1 treatment preserves inner retinal function, evidenced by pattern electroretinography, in the rat ocular hypertension model" and Dr. Pedro Gonzalez, for his presentation "The assessment of neuro-retinal toxicity in patients with epilepsy on Vigabatrin".

We congratulate our young scientists honoured this year, and look forward confidently to seeing the boundaries of knowledge extended further in future years.

Daphne McCulloch

The First Emiko Adachi Award

This Award is provided through a generous endowment from Emiko Adachi upon her retirement as Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Chiba University, Japan. Hers was a long and glorious career with many honours, culminating in official recognition from the Japanese government. Despite all of this, she remained extraordinarily proud of her long membership of ISCEV, and of her outstanding record of service to this society.

This Award is given to an ISCEV member who has over a long period, given outstanding service to ISCEV and who has made significant contributions to clinical electrophysiology of vision.

How appropriate that the first recipient, announced at the XLIII Symposium Banquet, was Prof Colin Barber! This award will culminate in his Emiko Adachi Scientific Lecture at the upcoming ISCEV Symposium in Fontevraud, France.

Knowing Prof Barber, this will be an occasion to celebrate, in both content and Style! [And yes, we do raise the bar here for you Colin.]

Daphne McCulloch and Michael Bach



XLV ISCEV
Symposium 2007:
August 25-29, 2007

The XLV ISCEV Symposium 2007 is being held in Hyderabad, India. The symposium hosts are Dr Subhadra Jalali, MD, and L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India. This announcement is intended to remind you of the event, so that you can block

these dates on your calendar!

Hyderabad is a historical city with a view to the future – it beckons not just the historian, but also the scientist, the IT savvy whizkid, and the ambitious entrepreneur. The history of Hyderabad dates back to the 16th century; the stories told of the kings and queens make for exciting celluloid dreams in a city that is the movie-making capital of South India. Fabulous palaces stand cheek by jowl with glitzy shopping malls and entertainment plazas. The city is also home to the high-tech virtual world of information technology and a research hub for an ever-increasing number of multinationals. The culture and cuisine of this wonderful melting pot of a city is a blend of traditional and modern, appealing to diverse Asian and Western palates.

When the day's work is done, and the conference room lights dim, listen to tales and legends at the Sound and Light Show in the shadow of Golconda Fort's ramparts. Have a sumptuous dinner in a royal palace or embark on a shopping spree that is a multicultural experience — with a rich array of Pearls, handloom textiles and handcrafted artifacts to choose from.

Welcome to Hyderabad! Take home fond memories of a trip through time and space, in a city that was once a kingdom, a colonial residency, and is now a bustling cosmopolitan city of the future!

Contact email: iscev@lvpei.org ; subhadra@lvpei.org

Symposium Highlights

Prepare your scientific material in advance to actively participate in an exciting ISCEV Symposium!

- Scientific sessions: Numerous thought-provoking Free Papers and dedicated, exhaustive Poster Sessions on a wide spectrum of visual electrophysiology
- Invited guest lectures from masters in the field
- Special Focus Themes of ISCEV 2007
- a. Defining retinal dystrophies — Role of electrophysiology in genotype-phenotype correlations
- b. The evolving role of visually evoked potentials in neuro-ophthalmology
- Animal electrophysiology session especially for basic scientists and pharma drug industry for drug toxicity studies
- Two days pre-conference hands-on ISCEV course on visual electrophysiology.

The program includes didactic lectures, interactive sessions, bring-your-case forum and hands-on practicals on various electrophysiology machines.

Subhadra Jalali MD, Symposium Organiser



ISCEV:

Friday 11th July – Wednesday 16th July 2008

Celebrate ISCEV's 50th Anniversary in Wild, Wonderful West Virginia!

Morgantown, West Virginia is the home of West Virginia University with its new Eye Institute.

Morgantown is situated in the scenic Appalachian Mountains within convenient travel distances from many major cities in Eastern North America. We encourage you to examine further information about the city, the state, and hotels on the web. Good starting points are:

<http://visit.wvu.edu/>; <http://www.wvueye.com/>; <http://www.tourmorgantown.com/>; <http://www.wvtourism.com/>

In early 2007 we will open our website with increasingly updated and detailed information about the Symposium and Morgantown.

*J Vernon Odom, PhD and Monique Leys, MD,
on behalf of the local organising committee.*

The ISCEV Newsletter is published regularly of behalf of the members in print and on the ISCEV website.

This year's editors are Daphne McCulloch (Secretary-General) and David Keating (Director of International Communications). Send contributions and suggestions for future newsletters to David Keating, d.keating@clinmed.gla.ac.uk

The web address for ISCEV newsletters and information including membership is: www.iscev.org