



## From the President



Only change is permanent – I often wonder what will and should change with ISCEV. ISCEV is occupying a niche which is encroached upon from various sides; additionally, insufficient reimbursement for electrophysiology services is an ongoing problem. A society should never exist for its own purposes, ISCEV is what *you* make of it! While the future is notoriously difficult to predict, ISCEV's current condition it is amazingly healthy and kicking. This strong impression of mine was formed at this year's ARVO, by the high-calibre ISCEV@ARVO session as well as by numerous conversations throughout that meeting. Not to forget, we have friends around us: ISCEV members are successful in various neighbouring societies, and we are extending our ties to the genetics field. Another very satisfying aspect is the state of our journal, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. Its impact factor rose from none to 1.2 last year, further to 1.7 this year, and the general submission level is healthy at this time, so: ISCEV is what *you've* made of it!

What remains to be done? A lot. One major issue is quality, in its original sense, specifically adherence to standards and calibration. Ideally we should reach a stage where everything is so rigorously standardized and well calibrated that one could install a new system, and then record from patients without having to collect normative data. But progress here is slow: some people and manufacturers claim to adhere to standards when they do not. Furthermore, calibration is difficult to do correctly, especially with ongoing changes to technology like the transformation from CRTs to LCDs. Even modest progress is important here, since a number of electrophysiological setups are sadly mis-calibrated. To avoid potential clinical consequences we will have to implement a system to verify calibration. Such a device would have to be really practical, easy to operate and sufficiently precise. Our society comprises this synergistic mix of colleagues with strong clinical interests, and others more oriented towards methodology or research. Thus together we are in an ideal situation to come up with a successful solution. Finally, given that standardised and calibrated equipment is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for quality, we will have to establish procedures

defining "good quality" in our recordings. Of course, we immediately think of test-retest reproducibility and normative trace shapes etc., but we have no formal definition a newcomer can apply.

To touch on another critical issue: When I entered this society, I had no clear notion of what these "people up there" were really doing. Now I am there myself, and am still amazed by it. Recently I heard criticism that things were being pre-decided behind closed doors. In responding to this criticism I do not simply want to state that "no, things are *not* that way", rather such critique needs to be seriously embraced. As one step, I have appointed a "Dodt Awards Panel Coordinator", someone from the "ISCEV generation" (i.e. after ISCEV was founded), just beyond eligibility herself, to co-direct the procedures. I am very happy that Christina Gerth has agreed to step into this position.

This brings me round the circle to the positive aspects again: ISCEV is what *you* make of it, and that's a bundle! So I thank every member for participation, cooperation and critique. I thank the officers for their exacting and time-consuming work. Florence Rigaudière and her team made last year's symposium in Fontevraud a great success, thank you!

Let us continue to reach out and stand out, and I do hope to meet many of you again this summer, or during one of the future symposia and courses.

**Michael Bach, PhD**  
President, ISCEV

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## From the Secretary General

There are two things that the Secretary-General enjoys before other members have their chance; I am the first to welcome new members to ISCEV, and I am the first to receive a welcome from our symposium hosts. Last August, my symposium-planning visit to Hyderabad was my first visit to the Indian sub-continent. India is famous for variety and contrast; these were evident everywhere in the styles and flavours of the city. But there was also consistency in the unvarying warmth and care of Dr Subhadra Jalali and her colleagues at our host institution, the LV Prasad Eye Institute. When you read this, many of you will be in Hyderabad, enjoying that same warm hospitality.

This year it was especially rewarding to welcome so many new members from the Asia and Oceania ISCEV region. This is not really a surprise; membership usually increases in the lead up to an International Symposium within that region. But even as ISCEV continues to thrive in Japan and in Australia, there is a real difference this year; new countries are emerging on the ISCEV roster. We now have active members in the Asia/Oceania region from 10 countries in addition to Japan and Australia, including P R China, Singapore, Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and of course our host nation India.

As well as the usual functions, this year we undertook a review of the ISCEV archive. Jo Beaumont, in her role as ISCEV administrator, has taken on this task with relish, sorting and cataloguing the papers and uncovering the more interesting correspondence and photographs. A list of our resources and some information about the history of ISCEV will soon be ready for our website. Importantly, we now know that the ISCEV archive contains the Documenta Ophthalmological Proceedings Series (full papers from ISCEV Symposia between 1972 and 1983). In addition, we have most of the ISCEV newsletters, symposium programmes and abstract books. The archive, however, is missing the abstracts from six of our symposia. I would be delighted if anyone could donate a copy of the any of the following missing abstract books to the archive: I<sup>st</sup> Stockholm 1961, V<sup>th</sup> Ghent 1966, VIII Pisa 1970, XXIV Palermo 1986, XXVII Dresden 1986 and Tübingen 1996. Members can contact me to obtain a copy of any abstract or paper from the hard-to-find publications in our archive.



Daphne McCulloch presents the ISCEV megaphone to Subhadra Jalali

Looking forward to 2008 and Morgantown, this will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISCEV (formerly ISCERG). No doubt there will be some confusion; the XLVI International ISCEV Symposium will host the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Although the ISCERG Board of officers formed in 1958, the first international symposium was not held until 1961. Two other early years were missed (1962 and 1968) then our International Symposium became truly annual. Although the ERG was emerging technology at the time, and there was great motivation to share knowledge and set clinical standards, it was not so easy to hold international scientific symposia. Prof Nakajima's comment highlights how things have changed since 1965. He pointed out a strong incentive for holding the ISCERG Symposium in conjunction with the International Ophthalmology Congress in Hakone; as a special service for congress delegates, direct flights were being offered from Europe to Japan!

"Welcome to ISCEV" has been said at symposia around the world for nearly 50 years as we have worked together to advance our body of knowledge. The real ISCEV welcome is the support and friendship shared by among our members, old and new.

**Daphne L McCulloch, OD, PhD**  
Secretary-General, ISCEV

## From the Director of Education

Due to the relative isolation of the beautiful setting of the main ISCEV Meeting at Fontevraud, the ISCEV Teaching Course last year was held in Paris at L'Hopital des Quinze-Vingts courtesy of Professor Jose Sahel, and with the superb assistance of the local organiser, Dr Isabelle Audo. The 35 delegates, including people who travelled from India, Japan and South Korea enjoyed lectures and demonstrations given by the faculty of Michael Bach, Chris Hogg, Don Hood, Ulrich Kellner and myself.

At the time of writing we look forward to the forthcoming meeting in Hyderabad where the traditional geographical association between the ISCEV Course and the ISCEV Meeting will resume. The faculty of Michael Bach, Sandeep Grover, Chris Hogg, Subhadra Jalali, David Keating, Mohan Ram and I will be providing a comprehensive Course that we hope will be found interesting, enjoyable and beneficial by the participants. As always, the commercial exhibitors are thanked for providing equipment for teaching and demonstration purposes.

Between France and now ISCEV approved Courses were run in Munich by Thomas Berninger and at Moorfields and Siegburg. The annual Moorfields Course took place in March. The faculty included ISCEV Members Drs Arden, Audo, Hogg,

Holder, Leroy, Neveu, Niemeyer, Robson (AG), and Thompson. Amongst the 38 delegates, we were honoured to welcome our first delegate from China, new ISCEV member Prof Shelley Liu. This writer also spoke at a Chinese Course run by Dr Liu in Beijing immediately prior to the Chinese National Ophthalmological meeting in late August. More than 80 delegates attended. The annual meeting in Munich was recently organised in June by Thomas Berninger with a faculty including ISCEV Members Arden, Bach, Berninger, Hogg, Holder, Jaegle, Krastel, Meigen, Palmowski, Rudolph, and Wildberger. Drs Ulrich Kellner and Klaus Reuther ran the annual German language Course in Siegburg in October with 24 attendees and Drs Bach and Lapp also on the faculty.

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

ISCEV Members intending to run "ISCEV Approved" Courses are again reminded that they should forward details of Course content and faculty to the Director of Education for approval. Only then can details be published on the ISCEV web-site.

**Graham E Holder, PhD**  
Director of Education

## In Memoriam – Prof. Dr. Henk Spekrijse

Prof. Dr. Henk Spekrijse passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2006. He was an active ISCEV member for many years, attending many meetings and serving on the ISCEV Board.

Henk was a vision scientist with science as his passion and goal, able as he was to dive into a different scientific question every other five minutes without room for any compromise whatsoever. I know of no other person with such ability. It also meant that he shared that passion with anyone within arms' length, not thinking of the consequences for those not present at that very moment. Science was his pure driving force. At his funeral Henk was described by one of his closest friends Prof. Jan Strackee as "geniaal, geestig en gedreven" which is Dutch for "brilliant, witty and passionate" and it described him very well. One of his students described him as "stern but fair".

Although he had many fundamental research interests, he always kept an open eye for clinical applications. I had the privilege to attend the clinical sessions at the Netherlands Ophthalmic Research Institute on a regular basis, where the electrophysiological data from patients of the Ophthalmological Department of the Academic Medical Center were discussed with the ophthalmologists, among whom the ophthalmogenetics specialist Willem Delleman was Henk's most important sparring partner. Later Henk would describe the most important concern of his work as "the introduction of findings from basic research into the ophthalmological and neurological practice". He was a true translational researcher.

His basic research produced the most important and fundamental publications on many different subjects, as was acknowledged by David Regan in Vision Research(\*), the journal



of which he was Editor in Chief for so long a period. The photograph of Henk attached to this obituary (nearest to the camera) comes from my "ordeal(\*)" when Henk was acting as my promoter (23-10-1986). Many of you will recognize two other ISCEV members, Professors Harding (the only person bringing colour into the committee: Henk's idea!) and van Lith.

As a chairman Henk brilliantly manipulated funding in directions that he felt scientifically appropriate. He published a wealth of scientific publications, had many students, and leaves many good memories. Those present at the ISCEV meeting in Amsterdam in 1980, which Henk organized with his long standing friend and colleague Henk van der Tweel, were privileged to attend a superbly organized and highly successful meeting both socially and scientifically.

Henk leaves a wife, Yvonne, who also attended many ISCEV meetings, and two daughters, to whom our thoughts go out.

**Frans Riemsdag**  
Bartiméus Institute for the Visually Impaired  
Zeist, The Netherlands

(\*) Vision Research 47 (2007) v-vii

## From the Director of Standards

It has been an active and productive year for our organization in revising existing standards and creating new standards for the clinical practice of visual electrophysiology. I would like to thank the many members of ISCEV for their active participation in this process. Updated versions of the EOG standard (chaired by Malcolm Brown) and the PERG standard (Chaired by Graham Holder) have been published in *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. Malcolm has challenged us to think more critically about the meaning of adhering to an ISCEV standard and the EOG revision may set a new standard for our standards (a topic that I will return to later). Current activities include a new guideline for pediatric ERG (chaired by Ann Fulton), a new standard for the mfERG, converting the published guideline to reflect the maturity of the technique (chaired by Don Hood) and a revision of the calibration guideline (Chaired by Malcolm Brown). The success of these activities is contingent on the continued active participation of the membership. Please contact Ann or Malcolm if you wish to be included in the extended committee to review drafts of the guidelines. The mfERG standard is on the ISCEV website for review and will be up for endorsement at the 2007 annual meeting. Revisions of the ERG and VEP standards are due for 2008 and I encourage members interested in participating in the process to send me a note at my new e-mail address (mitchell.brigell@sbcglobal.net).

Discussion of the evolving role of the ISCEV standards has continued and, as Director, I encourage you to contact me with your opinions on this issue. The original intention of ISCEV standards was to provide criteria to insure good quality diagnostic clinical testing. With this goal, the standards were generic, with testing conditions to detect dysfunction in the visual pathways, and were inclusive of a fairly wide range of acceptable testing conditions, all of which are adequate to provide acceptable sensitivity to disease. In recent years, a number of issues have emerged regarding the adequacy of this definition of a standard and the need for an expanded role of ISCEV standards. In discussion of revision of the EOG, Malcolm Brown contended that the existing standard was sufficiently vague as to be meaningless. The resulting revision of the EOG standard is much more prescriptive. Acceptable variants of the standard are specified in the document and the user is instructed to note any variance from the standard procedure in their report. This adds more strength to the statement that an ISCEV standard was followed and facilitates comparison of results across laboratories. A drawback to a more prescriptive standard is that many existing systems may not follow the standard, requiring users to qualify their reported method to state that there were exceptions to the standard procedure. To those unfamiliar with electrodiagnostic testing, this might give the appearance that the procedure was of lower quality, when, in fact, the test is functionally equivalent to the standard protocol. Also, as visual display technology progresses, many of the prescribed conditions may become obsolete.

It is often contended that a more prescriptive standard will facilitate the use of electrophysiology in multi-center

clinical trials. I do not agree with this, since in any longitudinal trial change can be measured in an individual relative to their baseline status, negating the need for all centers to be equivalent at baseline. To adequately employ electrophysiology in a multi-center setting the critical issue is equivalent sensitivity to change across sites. This is dependent on sensitivity of the test to a change in physiologic status of the visual pathway and reliability (i.e. test-retest variability) of the procedure. To my knowledge, there is no data to suggest that any of the variant in the range of acceptable parameters in the less prescriptive standards is more sensitive or reliable than the alternatives.

This leads to another issue that I hear from time to time regarding ISCEV standards regarding the utility of a generic standard. Clearly, one size does not fit all. This is particularly true for the VEP standard. The current version is directed toward the clinical question of the presence or absence of an optic neuropathy. The VEP has many other applications in, for example, detection of chiasmal and post-chiasmal abnormalities or estimation of visual acuity and contrast sensitivity. Similarly, the ERG standard addresses the presence of rod-cone degeneration and does not include conditions for estimating abnormalities in photo-transduction. Nor does it provide guidance on under what circumstances the protocol could be shortened by examining only the cone system. Finally, the mfERG standard does not address variants that may be useful in the detection of dysfunction in the nerve-fiber layer.

The problem with the generic standard was made clear in the presentations of Dr. Wiley Chambers of the FDA and Professor Zrenner at the 2005 ISCEV symposium in Glasgow. Professor Zrenner presented a number of scenarios in which the standard ERG needed to be modified to detect the effect of a therapeutic intervention on retinal function. This was in contrast to Dr. Chambers, who, not being an expert in electrophysiology, stated that when looking for electrophysiologic evidence of efficacy or safety of an intervention he asks for ISCEV standard ERGs and that it is incumbent on an organization of expertise, such as ISCEV, to provide him with more specific guidelines on what protocol to follow to address specific issues. In discussion of the need for more situationally specific standards, such as detection of beneficial effects of treatment of specific disease, or detection of a toxic effect of a systemic treatment on photoreceptors, Daphne McCollough, our ISCEV secretary general, has suggested that we adapt the standards into more of a web-based book format. In this format, in addition to our generic standards, we could include chapters on more specific applications. This would have obvious use both to clinical investigators and to regulatory authorities.

I encourage feedback from the ISCEV community on these issues and again applaud the active involvement of members in the ongoing efforts to improve the quality and importance of clinical electrophysiology worldwide. I look forward to stimulating discussion at the meeting in Hyderabad.

**Mitchell Brigell, PhD**  
Director of Standards



## Editor's Report

This is the second annual report that I am writing as Editor of the Society's journal, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. The report this year is briefer than the one last year because there are not so many changes in journal operations to report. We are in the second year of using, with success, the web-based "editorial manager", and midway through our initial 3+ year contract for 6 issues a year, with the bonus of free color illustrations, with Springer-Verlag GmbH. The very effective Diana Epstein of Di-Ep Biomedical Editorial Services continues to administer the editorial office and to supervise the online submission process for the journal. If you have questions about manuscript submission, Diana may be contacted at [Docoph@di-ep.com](mailto:Docoph@di-ep.com). The composition of the very helpful editorial board has not changed, and Dr. Scott Brodie continues to do an excellent job as Editor of the Case Reports – although he certainly could be handling more submissions.

The changes that can be reported are mainly positive ones reflecting the progress that the journal has been making. Since the last report we have received two impact factors, 1.239 for 2005, which was good news, and 1.712 for 2006, which was even better news. As stated in the help file for Journal Citation Records (JCR) on the ISI Web of Knowledge site: "The impact factor is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year (e.g. 2006) by the total number of articles published in the two previous years (e.g. 2004-5). Improvement in the timeliness of publication has helped our factor rise because papers are available for citing sooner in the counting period, and

of course, improvements in scientific quality and "impact" of the work as helped. It should be noted here that two major ISCEV standards were published in 2004 during the counting period for 2006, on ERG and VEP. Upcoming are EOG and PERG, and soon the new **Standard for the mfERG**. In our publications, let's remember to cite those standards as well as the other fine papers in recent issues. Of course, impact factor, and the other quantitative assessments offered by the ISI JCR, are not the only "factors" to consider when musing about the value of our journal. *Documenta Ophthalmologica* has great value for the Society because of the papers that it gathers in one place on relevant work.

Other good news to report concerns the Journal's submission rate. Whereas in 2005 only 41 manuscripts were submitted, in 2006, 83 manuscripts were submitted. This year as of 1 August, there already were 81 submissions. This year also brings the publication of a special issue on "Electrophysiologic assessment of the mouse visual system", and we hope, with your help, that the issue on "Retinal imaging and electrophysiology in the assessment of retinal disease" will fill and be ready for publication in 2008. Please continue to support your Journal, consider proposing a review, or a special issue on a favorite area of research; methodological papers/technical notes also are welcome. In closing, I remind you, as I did last year, to place the address of the editorial manager, <https://www.editorialmanager.com/doorp/> in the "favorites" list of your internet browser.

Laura J. Frishman, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*

## Member News

Congratulations to ISCEV member, Professor Ian MacDonald on his recent appointment as Branch Chief for Ophthalmic Genetics at the National Eye Institute of NIH in Bethesda MD. Ian took up this key position at NIH in January 2007, leaving his post at the University of Alberta, Edmonton where he served for 15 years as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Clinical Chief of Ophthalmology for Capital Health. Ian shared with us his goals for his new position for which we wish him every success:

- The development of targeted treatment protocols for heritable retinal disorders.

- The development of a research infrastructure that supports the investigation and molecular genetic diagnosis of heritable ocular diseases. In doing so, I will be directly involved on the Steering Committee of the National Genotyping Initiative currently being established by NEI.
- The expansion of the Branch's postgraduate training program that trains the next generation of clinician scientists in the investigation and treatment of inherited ocular diseases, coincident with the two former activities.

David Keating, PhD  
Director of International Communications

# Treasurer's Report

The accompanying spreadsheet displays the financial situation of our society. The final data for 2004 - 2006 are shown and an estimate for 2007 is presented. 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.

Publication and symposium pre-financing are the major liabilities. The first is rather stable over the years, the latter depends on the necessities of each organiser's local situation. Symposium income through treasurer's office is money that is paid for e.g. a symposium or the teaching course via the credit card facilities established by the treasurer (in 2006 it was the course only). Reduced by the credit card charges, the money is then transferred to the symposium organiser (included in symposium financing).

The financial situation is rather stable, mostly based on a stable membership. Currently 276 members have paid for 2004, 264 for 2005, 282 for 2006 and 255 for 2007. This is not a real decline in the membership, as some (few) members pay late and I expect about 20-30 further members still to pay for 2007. The office of the general secretary opened a new account when transferring to Daphne McCulloch with increased initial costs. In total, we made a surplus in 2006.

I have cautiously calculated a small financial deficit for 2007, but it is also possible to nearly break even.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting in Hyderabad. Please contact me with any questions relating to this report and thank you again for reducing my workload by using the online payment system.

Best regards and an enjoyable time in Hyderabad!

**Ulrich Kellner, MD**  
Treasurer of ISCEV

<b>Treasurers Report (Euro)</b>	<b>2004 closed</b>	<b>2005 closed</b>	<b>2006 closed</b>	<b>2007 estimated</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Membership dues	29.227,95	27.138,00	33.943,97	32.000,00
Symposium income through treasurers office	0,00	28.638,16	5.440,89	0,00
Bank account interests	1.493,39	1.102,97	2.172,38	1.800,00
Publisher editorial payment	8.264,17	3.975,00	6.846,85	4.000,00
Symposium return (income & returned pre-financing)	0,00	19.128,63	22.343,00	0,00
Other income	0,00	500,00	0,00	0,00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38.985,51</b>	<b>80.482,76</b>	<b>70.747,09</b>	<b>37.800,00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Check handling fees, bank charges	1.468,13	532,17	413,83	600,00
Credit card handling fees	1.347,27	2.558,88	1.992,41	2.500,00
Internet services	1.135,26	162,58	569,55	600,00
Lawyer	3.297,32	131,10	139,20	200,00
Accounting	0,00	1.044,00	696,00	1.000,00
Secretary general office	4.697,91	4.227,60	14.828,00	5.000,00
Treasurers office	255,27	540,62	735,49	1.000,00
Editors office	4.098,00	1.062,50	0,00	0,00
Publishing DOOP	27.825,00	31.561,50	26.999,50	30.000,00
Symposium financing	44.095,50	46.302,48	12.776,57	0,00
Travel grants	2.904,85	2.457,20	2.893,12	4.000,00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>91.124,51</b>	<b>90.580,63</b>	<b>62.043,67</b>	<b>44.900,00</b>
<b>Balance</b>				
Total Income - Total Expenditure	-52.139,00	-10.097,87	8.703,42	-7.100,00
<b>Assets (as of 31.12.200x)</b>				
USD Account	906,73	12.591,99	12.888,32	11.500,00
EURO Account	6.402,89	12.765,81	22.492,33	12.500,00
Deposit	136.394,27	108.624,58	107.122,08	100.000,00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>143.703,89</b>	<b>133.982,38</b>	<b>142.502,73</b>	<b>124.000,00</b>

# Recollections of a Symposium



## 44th ISCEV meeting in the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, France, June 11-15, 2006

It was a great pleasure to welcome 270 participants in the historical site of the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud for the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the annual ISCEV symposium. They came from 25 countries of all around the world and arrived after a long and sometimes difficult journey, like the pilgrims who came in this site, many centuries ago, to find peace of the soul, and rest of the spirit, in the heart of the Loire Valley.

The Royal Abbey of Fontevraud was founded in the XII<sup>th</sup> century and was a high center of spiritual meetings where cultural exchanges were very intense. The large spaces favored the intense work and the lovely gardens created for a peaceful and relaxing environment where the friendly atmosphere lighted up in the heart of this fruitful region of vineyard, a blessed region.

More than 130 papers and 76 posters were be presented by our experts and the abstracts were published in the special DOOP issue (112/2: 83-150) for the first time. 38 accompanying persons discovered the royal history of this mythical part of France where castles and vineyards are part of the landscape. Seven companies highlighted the meeting with their device demonstrations.

The closing banquet was held in the "Grand Réfectoire" where the Chef made a great piece of the famous French cuisine with delicious vines of the Loire Valley.

**Florence Rigardiere, MD**  
Chair, ISCEV 2006 Symposium Organising  
and Programme Committees



# Minutes of the 2006 ISCEV Membership Meeting

Thursday 15 June, 17:30, Abbaye Fontevraud, France

- 1 **Opening** The President opened the meeting and welcomed the ISCEV membership. He thanked J Vernon Odom who retired from the Board after 8 years as editor-in-chief of *Docum Ophthalmol* and Marko Hawlina, new Board member-at-large and welcomed the new Editor, Laura Frishman.
  - 2 **Minutes of the 2005 ISCEV Membership Meeting:** The minutes of the 2005 ISCEV Membership Meeting were adopted as a true record (as printed in the ISCEV 2006 Newsletter (NL)).
  - 3 **Report from the 2006 Symposium Organiser:** Dr Florence Rigaudière presented the following symposium highlights: 132 scientific presentations (55 oral, 2 invited speakers, and 76 posters), 7 exhibitors and 5 other sponsors, 218 conference participants, 40 accompanying people and 15 exhibitors (total 273 registrations), of the attendees from 25 countries, one third are native English speakers, the ISCEV regional distribution is: Asia & Oceania 33, Americas 45 and Europe & Africa 140.
  - 4 **ISCEV Officers' Updates and discussion of the reports printed in the 2006 NL.**
    - 4.1 **Approval of the Treasurer's Report (2006 NL)** the report was unanimously exonerated by a vote of the members. The treasurer announced the new policy as approved by the ISCEV Board that all membership payments should be made using the online system. Alternative payment methods can be arranged with the treasurer but the member will be required to pay for the associated additional costs.
    - 4.2 **Matters arising from the reports of the other ISCEV officers in the 2006 NL**
      - 4.2.1 The **Secretary-General** reminded members to think ahead to 2007 nominations when we will seek a new Vice President for the Americas. The president and a member-at-large position will come up for election or re-election.
      - 4.2.2 The **Editor** announced that **Documenta Ophthalmologica** is expected to regain its impact in June (based on 2005 performance) and reminded members to submit for the upcoming special editions, as well as case reports, reviews, technical notes and full papers. (*Note: Docum Ophthal did receive an impact factor of 1.24 and rank of 23/44 Ophthalmology Journals.*)
      - 4.2.3 The **Director of Education** thanked the lecturers for the successful ISCEV Teaching Course just completed in Paris and announced the short courses planned at the EVER and SOE meetings.
      - 4.2.4 **Director of Standards:** Final drafts of PERG and EOG standards are available from the respective committee. The Board has decided to place these on the postal ballot for ratification, conforming to our new policy that ratification of standards requires a minimum of 4 weeks for review and comment by the members following the availability of a final draft. (*note: PERG and EOG standards were subsequently approved and prepared for publication.*)

Don Hood will chair the committee to review the mfERG guidelines. A committee to review the guidelines for calibration of stimulus and recording parameters is planned. The paediatric committee has been active and is preparing its survey of paediatric practice for publication.
      - 4.2.5 **Regional Vice Presidents** updated their NL reports.

**Atsushi Misota, Asia & Oceania:** The 2006 JSCEV meeting attracted 294 delegates. JSCEV looks forward to the 2007 meeting in March to be hosted by Prof Horiguchi. **Don Hood, Americas:** The 2006 ISCEV@ ARVO was well attended and returning a profit to ISCEV. **Colin Barber, Europe & Africa:** The successful ISCEV special sessions and courses at both EVER and SOE will continue in 2007. The British Chapter, BriSCEV plans its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting in Alysbury in Sept. 2006. There is a plan to re-start the French chapter of ISCEV.
  - 5 **Report of the ISCEV Board of Directors Meeting**
    - 5.1 The Board discussed the **future direction and scope of ISCEV.** ISCEV is recognised as a successful international authority for standards, education, publication and scientific meetings in clinical electrophysiology of vision. The discussion addressed whether the scope of ISCEV constrains growth, broader interests and productive scientific developments of the Society. **Summary:** There was a consensus that we should embrace opportunities to enlarge the scope of our symposia and of our journal using the existing expertise in allied fields among our members, particularly in the field of anatomical and functional imaging. Too rapid an expansion of scope would risk diluting the quality and identity of the Society. The Board felt that special sessions at Symposia and special journal issues focused on topics of rapid scientific growth should be advanced and lead the activities and interests of our members.
    - 5.2 A proposal to open the **CEV-net** discussion to non-members of ISCEV was passed by the Board. It is hoped that CEV-net will enhance the profile of ISCEV as a broader service to inform and share knowledge among members of societies in related fields and other non-members. (*Also note Board decisions in 4.1 and 4.2.4*)
  - 6 **Elections 2006 ISCEV Board of Directors:**
    - 6.1 Vice President for Asia and Oceania: Atsushi Mizota was nominated to serve a second term and was elected unanimously by the members present.
    - 6.2 Member-at-Large (2 positions): Seven nominees were proposed for the two positions. By iterative secret ballot, this list was reduced to four candidates standing for the postal ballot of the ISCEV membership. (*Note: Dr Carol Westall and Dr Mineo Kondo were subsequently elected members-at-large.*)
  - 7 **Future ISCEV Symposia**
    - 7.1 Subhadra Jalaili gave the members a taste of the welcome they can expect at the XLV ISCEV Symposium and the ISCEV course in Hyderabad, 25-29 August 2007 with images, music and her own dance.
    - 7.2 J Vernon Odom updated the members on plans for the XLVI ISCEV Symposium Morgantown 10-15 July 2008. Symposium themes were announced "Correlation of Structure and Function" and "Electrophysiological Assessment of Low Vision".
    - 7.3 XLVII ISCEV Symposium 2009: Invitations from Europe and Africa: Two illustrated invitations were presented by prospective hosts: to Ljubljana, Slovenia by Marko Hawlina and Jelka Breclj and to Padova Italy by A Patrezia Tormene (*note: Padova was selected as the location.*)
    - 7.4 XLVIII ISCEV Symposium – invitations have been received from Perth Australia, (Dr Enid Chelva) and from Seoul, South Korea (Dr Ohn). These and any further invitations will be considered at the 2007 membership meeting.
- Without other business the meeting closed at 18:36.

## The Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award 2006

Mrs. Elke Dodt, widow of Prof. Dodt and founder of the award for the outstanding young ISCEV presenter presented the award:

Most honoured Prizewinner, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Last year, when I was due to present the Eberhard Dodt Award in Glasgow, I was surprised to realise, while preparing the lauda-tio, that it was the 10<sup>th</sup> occasion for the prize giving, and that thereby a small tradition had already been established. So here at Fontevraud it is the 11<sup>th</sup> time to award the prize, through which young scientists, working in the field of clinical electrophysiology of vision, are to be supported and encouraged. This prize was made possible, thanks to the generous donations from my husband's colleagues and former pupils, after his death. These created the capital, which generates the prize-money. In the course of the past ten years, charity concerts, three further donations and a bequest have been able to strengthen and extend this material basis.

Last year I quickly found a relevant theme for the laudatio. It was, after all, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Einstein's death and the centenary of his special theory of relativity. From this there was a direct link to Max Planck and to the place where Eberhard Dodt worked, Bad Nauheim. But I hardly thought that in the Mozart Year, 2006, in which we are celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great composer's birth, I could find a connection between Mozart and Ophthalmology. Yet all that was needed was a hint from the musicologist Marion Fürst. Mozart dedicated a piano concerto to the pianist, singer, composer and music teacher Paradis, a woman known all over Europe. Maria Theresia Paradis was blind. She underwent treatment by the doctor and "magnetizer" Franz Anton Mesmer, which aroused great interest. Mozart caricatured the failure of this therapy for eye-trouble as charlatanism in his opera "Cosi fan tutte"! The experience of Paradis as a blind artist was undoubtedly what influenced her decision to support as co-founder, Valentin Haüy's School for the Blind in Paris, the first of its kind in the world. It was a pupil of this school, Louis Braille, who in-vented the universally accepted system of writing still used by the blind today.



If young scientists with imagination, backed up by high qualifications in their subject, enlarge our knowledge in the field of medicine, this means that there is always a chance of overcoming disease and helping suffering humans. The Eberhard Dodt Prize is intended to be a small stimulus, not to lose heart on this path...

June 2006, Elke Dodt

Mrs Dodt then warmly congratulated, Dr Daniel Barthelmes, Dr Barthelmes, was born in Germany and completed his studies of in Dresden, Germany. Remarkably, he also acquired four foreign languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian). After interim experiences in various medical fields he pursued postdoctoral research with Dr. Fleischhauer and Prof. Niemyer at the University Eye Hospital in Zurich, Switzerland. These results formed the basis for his presentation in Fontevraud entitled "Detecting visual field constriction in patients with retinitis pigmentosa using quantitative OCT analysis".

The adjudicators and awards panel and recognised two additional presenters from an especially strong contingent of 28 presenting authors under 35 years of age, for their highly-commended presentations. Drs Guylene Le Muer and Naouki Tanimoto were recognised with book prizes; both Professor Miyaki and Professor Heckenlively's books were hot-off-the-press, and both were presented in person by the authors.

## The First Emiko Adachi Award Lecture: Prof Colin Barber



"The far side of the globe" was the title of the first Emiko Adachi Award Lecture presented in the beautiful Abbaye Fontevraud as the finale to the XLIV ISCEV symposium. Of course ISCEV members know that the globe is focused on the retina – a very suitable topic. On a grander scale, however, we immediately think of our collaborators and hosts in distant continents. But perhaps it takes a little prodding from our inaugural award lecturer, Prof Colin Barber, to realise that the most important thing on the far side of our vision is the brain. Thank you, Colin, for your informative and engaging lecture!

On her retirement as Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Chiba University, Japan, Professor Emiko Adachi endowed an award to honour ISCEV members for contributions to the science of clinical electrophysiology of vision and for outstanding service to ISCEV over a long period. The first Emiko Adachi Award was presented to Professor Colin Barber, Professor and Chair of Medical Physics, University of

Nottingham, Queens Medical Centre. Of the many successful scientific endeavours in Colin's long career, his contributions to the evolution of VEPs and unravelling of the visual brain stand out as the dominant themes. For 'outstanding service to ISCEV', Colin exemplifies the criteria for the award. From 1991 when he co-hosted the ISCEV Symposium in Oxford, England with Prof Nicolas Galloway, his service has been continuous and truly outstanding. For 14 years Colin served as Secretary-General, supporting three different Presidents and welcoming a host of members to our society. But by far the greatest task of the SG is his support of the annual ISCEV symposium. As symposium hosts will know, putting together a successful international scientific meeting can be a monumental effort. Colin has been central to the planning and execution of 16 ISCEV Symposia! While circling the globe many times in this endeavour, he has been instrumental in building the international flavour of the ISCEV family spirit.

We are thankful to Emiko Adachi for creating this award, making it possible for ISCEV to honour those who have given outstanding service to our society, complementing the Dodt Award "at the far side" their careers.

Daphne McCulloch & Michael Bach

# Upcoming Symposia

## ISCEV turns 50 and holds its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium in Morgantown, West Virginia, USA.

Mark your calendar! Thursday July 10, 2008 – Tuesday July 15, 2008

**Scientific Program:** The two special topics in 2008 will be 1) Correlation of Structure and Function and 2) Electrophysiology and Low Vision. We have invited a group of internationally renowned speakers to present lectures on these topics. Additionally, free papers on your topic of interest are also encouraged. We plan a 16 paper and poster sessions over the course of the symposium.

We plan two preconference courses of one day and a half each to be held July, 08- July 10, 2008. The preconference course programs will include didactic lectures, interactive sessions, bring-your-case forum and hands-on practical sessions on various electrophysiology machines. The first will be The ISCEV Course on clinical human visual electrophysiology. The second course will be a special course on *Animal Electrophysiology: From Laboratory to Clinic*.

**Conference Location:** Morgantown, WV is situated in the scenic Appalachian Mountains. It is the home of West Virginia University and the WVU Eye Institute. Morgantown has received national recognition as one of the best small cities in the United States and has been written up favorably as a weekend destination in the New York Times Travel Section. We encourage you to examine further information about the city, the state, and hotels on the web. Good starting points are: <http://www.tourmorgantown.com/>; <http://www.wvtourism.com/>

The symposium hotel will be the Waterfront Place Hotel, [<http://www.waterfrontplacehotel.com/>] conveniently located in downtown Morgantown and along the Monongahela River Caperton Trail [<http://www.montrails.org/>]. Housing also will be available at nearby downtown hotels such as the historic Clarion Hotel Morgan. WVU dormitory rooms will be available at this time of year for those who need inexpensive housing.



**Transportation:** Morgantown's Hart Field (Airport code; MGW) is inside the city and has direct flights from Pittsburgh International Airport on US Airways. Travelers may prefer to arrive in Pittsburgh. There are convenient shuttles and a public bus which travels from the Pittsburgh Airport to Morgantown. If there is sufficient interest, we will arrange a shuttle bus service from the Pittsburgh Airport. Participants may also choose to rent a car from Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD or Pittsburgh and drive to Morgantown.

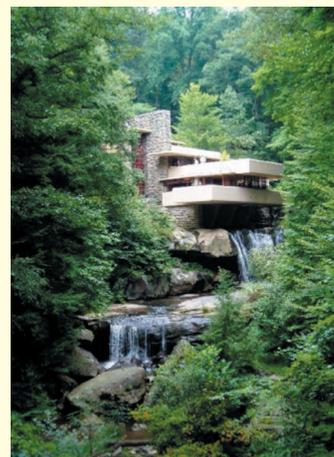
**Social Program:** We will make use of West Virginia and nearby Pennsylvania's natural beauty and historic sites for much of the hospitality and social program. Our day trip will include a visit to Fort Necessity, where the young George Washington's fought his first battle (and lost to his future allies the French) and two homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, Kentuck Knob and Fallingwater. There will also be the ISCEV Olympic Games and other opportunities for interaction. The accompanying persons program will offer a wider range of sights and activities within a short distance of Morgantown. In July, the temperature will be warm, but it is unlikely to be hot or rainy. Before and after the conference enjoy the country roads of West Virginia or visit nearby major US cities such as Pittsburgh, Washington, or Cleveland. Take home fond memories of a unique view of nature and history.

We believe that ISCEV 2008 will be a very special symposium filled with the excitement of learning and seeing new places and meeting with old friends.

As you think of ISCEV 2008, just recall the words from John Denver's song "Country Roads".

*Almost heaven, West Virginia /  
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River ....  
Country roads, take me home / To the place, I belong*

**J. Vernon Odom, PhD & Monique Leys, MD**  
and ISCEV 2008 Organizing Committee



# Upcoming Symposia



## ISCEV XLVII PADOVA-ABANO TERME

**Monday 6th July to Friday 10th July 2009**

The Ophthalmic Clinic of Padova University is honoured to host the XLVII° ISCEV Symposium in Padova-Abano Terme.

Padova is a beautiful town in the North East of Italy. It has a long history stretching back long before the Romans came. The University of Padova was founded in 1222: Galileo Galilei taught here and many great scientists and doctors came from all over Europe to study.

Padova is famous for the Basilica of St Anthony, the frescoes by Giotto, Altichiero, Menabuoi, Mantegna, Donatello and Titian and for its beautiful squares and medieval buildings.

Padova is 12 km from where the Symposium will be held: **Abano Terme**.

This small town lies at the foot of the Euganean hills, it was already a famous spa town in Roman times and, today, is the largest spa town in the world.

Venice, Marco Polo, is the closest airport.

We look forward to seeing you at an excellent scientific Symposium in a charming Italian atmosphere.

Dr. Alma Patrizia Tormene Local Organizer

### Other information:

<http://www.turismopadova.it/>

<http://www.abanomontegrotto.it/>

<http://www.cappelladegliscrovegni.it/>

<http://www.basilicadelsanto.org/>

**Patrizia Tormene, MD**  
ISCEV 2009 Symposium Organiser

