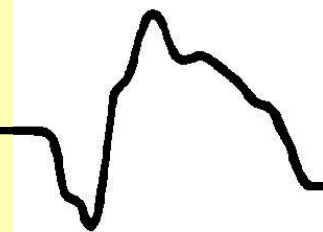


ISCEV Newsletter 2016



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Edited by Hamilton & Bach



From the President

Dear Members

Thanks to your support, I am still President in 2016. I am deeply honoured by the trust you have shown in confirming me for another year as President of our Society. Thank you.

ISCEV is an evolving organisation, one which is constantly undergoing healthy physiological changes.

I am very happy to announce that this year we had a large number of new members: 24 new colleagues from countries including Argentina, Romania, Kuwait, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Korea and Nepal have joined us.

Laura Frishman has returned to the Board as Vice President for the Americas. We are truly happy that we will be able to benefit from her great dedication and experience.

Luckily we will also be able to have other valuable contributions from members of the Board who have finished their term in office: Mitch Brigell will be able to offer great help as the Board's Symposium Coordinator for the 2017 Symposium in Miami.

There is also a new offshoot to the Society: YSCEV ("Young Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision") has been formed for our under-35s: it aims to allow younger scientists and clinicians to meet, to get to know each other and to exchange ideas and experience at an early stage in their career, thereby making valuable contacts (see p. 12 -eds). The Board considers this an excellent development which will stimulate growth and expansion of ISCEV in general.

The process of revising Standards continues. It is not always easy, probably because we are very demanding as we want everything to be perfect and universally accepted and approved. This isn't easy. However, we use a transversal system for relaying comments between members and seeking approval that makes us very democratic. Everyone can participate in decisions taken by ISCEV through on-line communication. The Board also used a surveys to discuss the delicate question of filming / photographing during presentations at our Symposium (see p.12 -eds).

Being a member of ISCEV means loving our work and wanting to share information and knowledge with others. Given this, many of us are active in organising and promoting courses and congresses whose focus is electrophysiology. I would like to thank all those colleagues who have been so active in promoting electrophysiology in various venues all over the world. You will find a complete list of events, past present and future on the website. I would like to mention in particular a recent decision taken by SEVE, during its





meeting in France, to fund two study grants to be awarded to the two best presentations, which will allow winners to take part in the ISCEV Symposium.

In 2015, Marko Hawlina and Jelka Brecelj, with their superefficient group, welcomed us to Ljubljana with organisation that ran as perfectly as clockwork. The symposium took place in a magnificent, prestigious ambience and, thanks to the Dawson and Adachi Lectures, possible because of our benefactors' generosity, it was full of interesting scientific contributions.

Sharing scientific and social activities with EUNOS has enriched our meetings both with science and human relationships. I personally, after the efforts to win the new ISCEV Olympic trophy (generously offered by Pierre Lachapelle's team, inexplicably lost during the awards ceremony and miraculously found at we will see at the Symposium in Singapore ...) at beautiful Lake Bled, then enjoyed a superb ICYCLIST tour after the Symposium. Thank you, Maja and Manca.

As you know, I retired in 2015. I told you about this life choice. I thought that being a pensioner would mean having a lot of free time, but after 18 months in retirement, my life is fuller and richer than it was when I worked shifts, or was on call. I still teach in the school of specialisation in Ophthalmology, Neurology, Otolaryngology and for the Degree in Orthoptics. I work freelance as an electrophysiologist, and can take part in congresses and take courses far more freely than I could before.

Continuing as President of ISCEV is another great opportunity and a real pleasure and I hope to bring honour to the role you have asked me to play for the next three years.

*With friendship,
Patrizia Tormene*

Message from the Secretary-General



This is my last newsletter as Secretary-General: after almost five years in the job, I reluctantly turned down the President's request to undertake a further term. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Secretary-General and it has been a pleasure to serve the society. After five years, most of the ideas I can bring to the Secretary-General's office are used up, and it is time for new, fresh thoughts to arrive. These will most likely come from Karen Holopigian, well known to many of you, a brilliant scientist working in ophthalmology at Novartis in the USA. Karen has accepted the President's invitation to be Secretary-General and we will now ask you to ratify this choice at the Membership meeting in Singapore. I enthusiastically endorse Karen as my successor, and we will work closely together over the next year or so to ensure a smooth transition and continued best service to the Membership.

For those who care about track records, you could refer to the 2011 News Extra, where Patrizia and I laid out a 7-point manifesto. I think we have succeeded in all our aims, although some still require work. In particular, we have implemented changes triggered by Ulrich Kellner's Financial Review Committee and Colin Barber's Symposia Committee's work, to ensure financial sustainability of the Society. Especially pleasing to me is success in encouraging fuller participation of younger members of ISCEV, helped by the ever-rising attendance at the ISCEV course, now under the talented educator's hand of Dr Dorothy Thompson as Director of Education. Even more gratifying, because the idea rose from the young ranks themselves, is the formation of YSCEV, already mentioned by the President. This group of young scientists and clinicians with a special interest in visual electrophysiology will be able to create new and dynamic links in the Society, and will grow innovators and experts of the future in visual electrophysiology.

Another aim was to give ISCEV a presence on social media, and I am delighted that our facebook page has over 1000 followers. I maintain this page myself, with articles of interest—mostly, but not always involving visual electrophysiology—as well as job opportunities and notification of meetings and courses. We also have a LinkedIn group, maintained by Michael Bach, where you will find many familiar faces and some new ones.

Being Scottish, I am always mindful of money, and I have moved some functions of the Secretary-General's office to online services; for example, electronic voting and online survey use. This has reduced the cost of running the office to around a third of its previous level.

In last year's newsletter, I stressed the need to develop innovative techniques and applications. We risk losing the perception of relevance of our unique, functional tests in the face of advances in imaging and functional



imaging. Imaging is not our competition: on the contrary, it is serving our patients well. A similar revolution in our own field would allow technological advances to reach our clinics. Do we really need to perform visual electrophysiology, on every patient, the same way it was performed 10 or even 20 years ago? Many of our patients could benefit from tests which follow the revolutionary 3 S's: Simpler, Smarter, and Standardised. Even greater standardization than we currently have, especially, must include international reference data. The technology exists to make this possible, and therefore to bring electrophysiology testing to thousands, even tens of thousands of patients worldwide previously unable to access it. This is the prize, and it is our patients who could be the winners.

Ruth Hamilton

Report of the Director of Education

My most prominent task is to organise the human clinical electrophysiology course for at the annual ISCEV meeting. Over the last two years, we have lengthened the course to two days; this provides time for structured practical demonstrations and more opportunity for participants to talk informally with the international faculty. We have also worked closely with the concurrent animal course arranged by Mathias Seeliger. We benefit from shared key lectures and wider faculty expertise spanning clinical, technical, animal and research elements of visual electrophysiology.

The excellent 2015 Slovenia meeting hosted by Marco Hawlina and Jelka Brecejl was partnered with EUNOS and attracted course delegates from many backgrounds. Jelka Brecejl and Majar Sustar facilitated the local course, enabling the faculty to deliver 22 hours of lectures and 14 tutorial demonstrations over 17.5 hours. It was hard work, intense and highly enjoyable. Demonstration stations were tutored by the faculty, supported by sponsoring manufacturers and by the energy and humour of the clinical staff of Ljubljana's visual electrophysiology unit (below). The course received excellent feedback and also valuable suggestions, which are incorporated in this year's course. I would like to thank the 2015 course faculty: Michael Bach, Jelka Brecejl, Christoph Friedberg, Ruth Hamilton, Chris Hogg, Graham Holder, Bo Lei, Mineo Kondo, Anthony Robson, Mathias Seeliger, Dorothy Thompson, and Suresh Viswanathan for contributing to this success.



We are keen to support many other courses that promote visual electrophysiology. An 'ISCEV approved' course requires participation of an ISCEV member and recommendations to follow ISCEV standards. Please just e-mail DoE with details of your course content and faculty. We can then encourage and advise via our

network of experienced teachers, and also help publicise your meeting using the ISCEV website, newsletter, facebook and LinkedIn, and *Documenta Ophthalmologica*.

It is great to see annual visual electrophysiology courses continue to thrive, and ISCEV also supports and develops new ventures. We saw the first successful ISCEV course @ ARVO this year, and a new basic visual electrophysiology course will take place at EVER 2016 to tie in with the neuro-ophthalmology theme. I know many individual ISCEV members ensure visual electrophysiology features during the year by arranging ISCEV special interest sessions e.g. at RCophth UK 2016, or Euretina 2016, even as part of the 2016 Para-Olympic Games, as Chris Hogg is doing in Brazil. Thank you all for promoting visual electrophysiology education! Thus the portfolio of international ISCEV educators grows. Please do let me know if you would like, or have been invited, to contribute to visual electrophysiology teaching as a keynote speaker or as an educator.

Finally, with your support, I want to make sure ISCEV courses are tailored to meet any specific professional curricula across the range of visual electrophysiologists—clinical scientists, ophthalmologists, technicians, optometrists or any other healthcare practitioners. Please let me know of specific curricula for visual electrophysiology that you have to fulfil. With your help, I will ensure that ISCEV education in clinical visual electrophysiology continues to be relevant, accessible and responsive.

Dorothy Thompson



Report of the Director of Standards



It was with very mixed feelings that I decided to not to run for re-election at the end of this four-year term as ISCEV Director of Standards. Standards and Guidelines are a cornerstone of ISCEV; through these documents, we contribute to excellence in patient care and provide guidance to electrophysiologists, governments and manufacturers. Developing and improving our Standards is challenging, rewarding and the best way I know to hone my own skills in scientific communication. Maintaining clarity and consistency is essential. Even minor changes, such as tightening the definition of a Standard stimulus, can have large ripple effects. The reference ranges of an established laboratory may no longer meet the standard, or electrodiagnostic instruments may not be compliant. All of these considerations, of course, have brought me close to ISCEV members; those on committees and those who contribute to the discussion and feedback processes.

The *ISCEV Standard for clinical visual evoked potentials (2016 update)* is in press. Congratulations to J. Vernon Odom (chair) and the other members of the VEP Standard Committee, and to all of the ISCEV members who contributed to this update. The main change in this update is the acknowledgement that Standard checkerboard stimuli can be produced using various technologies. The previous VEP Standards described only a CRT (cathode ray tube) stimulus screen. Although few of us will miss having a warm, bulky CRT screen generating plenty of electrical noise in our labs, replacement is far from straightforward. Standard LCD screens turn on faster than they fade off and produce a transient luminance artefact on pattern reversal. The updated VEP Standard accepts there are current optical and electronic solutions to the artefact problem and is open to new solutions.

The challenges next on the agenda are to update both of the ISCEV Guidelines, the ISCEV clinical guide to procedures and the ISCEV technical and calibration guidelines, as well as to move forward with our goal of providing guidance for a number of extended protocols. My term as Director of Standards will end this year; I look forward to contributing and supporting my successor on these important initiatives.

Daphne L McCulloch

Report of the Editor-in-Chief, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*



To be or not to be?

From January 2015, when I took office, to June 2016, 133 papers were submitted to *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. Of these, 53 were rejected by the Editor-in-Chief—in other words, without being sent for review—because they were either inappropriate (43), incomplete (7) or showed evidence of plagiarism (3).

Of the 80 papers sent for review, 18 are still under review, one was subsequently withdrawn by the authors, 22 were rejected (16 at initial evaluation, five after first review and one after third review) and 39 were accepted (none at initial evaluation, 21 after first review, 14 after second review, two after third review and two after

fourth review). Thus, of the 61 papers that have received a decision, 39 (64%) were accepted for publication. Assuming that the 18 papers currently under review will be accepted, this is a total of 57 accepted papers in 18 months. Fifty-seven out of eighty or 71%: is this too high an acceptance rate? Well, as per our contract with Springer, the Editor-in-Chief has to make sure that six bimonthly issues of *Documenta Ophthalmologica* are published every year, each containing approximately 80 pages or roughly eight papers per issue. From the numbers above, it should be clear that guaranteeing the regular delivery of a complete issue of *Documenta Ophthalmologica* is becoming a bimonthly struggle/nightmare for the Editorial team. In conjunction with the rapidly shortening time between acceptance and publication of a paper, our journal potentially faces a disastrous scenario. While the average wait was approximately eight months in 2009, it gradually shortened to 3.2 months in 2014 and reached less than 1.5 months with the first two issues of 2016; that is a wait time



two weeks shorter than gap between consecutive issues of *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. At this rate, we will soon publish papers before they are accepted and eventually publish papers before they are written...

Documenta Ophthalmologica is a Society journal; it is the official voice of our Society. It publishes papers on visual electrophysiology which is central to the mission of our Society. In order to increase the submission rate, I guess I could send a mass email to all those involved in basic and clinical visual electrophysiology (members or not of ISCEV), begging them to submit papers to *Documenta Ophthalmologica*, or I could chase top notch researchers for their prestigious contribution to our journal, etc. However, if at the end of the day ISCEV members themselves, those for whom our journal exists, do not perceive *Documenta Ophthalmologica* as the natural place to submit their work in basic and clinical visual electrophysiology, then these strategies are bound to be fruitless. To better illustrate what I am trying to say, I conducted a small survey on the publication strategy of 30 members of our Society. The period sampled ran from January 2015 to June 2016 and the data was collected using PubMed only. The selected ISCEV members authored more than 189 papers, out of which only 14 found their way into *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. I was flabbergasted!

Our journal simply cannot rely solely on the publication of our Standards to thrive. To date, we have only six Standards which are refreshed every four to five years or so, and this is clearly not enough to guarantee the viability of our journal. Similarly, the impact factor (for those who believe that this is important) cannot solely rely on the Standards, but must also be based on the publication of research and clinical papers that are not only excellent but also challenging and stimulating; papers like those published by ISCEV members in competing journals.

If we, as a Society, still wish to have a journal that will publish (only) papers of visual electrophysiological interest, then we must take action and regularly submit papers to *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. If each active member of ISCEV submitted one paper every three years or so, this would guarantee an annual inflow of around 100 manuscripts. Another 50 or so—maybe more if others become convinced that *Documenta Ophthalmologica* is the place to go—would come from non-ISCEV members, thus promising an annual input sufficient to maintain the viability of our journal and, most probably, increase its impact factor. If *Documenta Ophthalmologica* is perceived as the place where papers in visual electrophysiology are published and read, then this is where researchers in the field will go first. We, the ISCEV membership, must first be convinced of this before trying to convince others. However, should the ISCEV membership's desire be to let our journal go, then there is no need for you to take action. It will get there by itself.

Pierre Lachapelle

Treasurer's Report

Following ISCEV's tradition, the heart of this report is the spreadsheet on page 6. It displays financial data for 2015 and retrospectively for 10 years (this year for 2005–2015). However, as already known to the ancient Greeks, "everything flows", so this year I introduced a slight format adaptation. The idea was to list separately EUR and USD assets and payments to enhance transparency of transactions of our international society. In each of the main sections, USD transactions and funds are now itemized separately (USD are indicated by a left alignment and a '\$' sign whereas EUR amounts are right-aligned). At the end of each section, EUR and USD totals are calculated separately. Where appropriate, a conversion of the USD amount in EUR (based on the rate on the 31.12. of the respective year) and a grand total is provided, as the accounting and tax records must be reported in EUR. The financial outcome in 2015 was again balanced and well within the margin of fluctuation over the past years. Major factors for these fluctuations are payments to and from Springer and symposium-related cash flow through ISCEV's accounts. Due to local handling of payments for the Ljubljana meeting, just the overall settlement appears in the 2015 report, which was, thanks to Marko and his team, nicely positive. Regarding our assets, the extremely low interest rates for secure investments led us to leave the repayment of expired securities for the moment in the general account. The remaining deposit is in USD and helps, together with our USD account, to even out the currency fluctuations that were quite substantial in past years. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding the treasurer's report. I look forward to seeing you in Singapore.



Mathias Seeliger

Treasurers Report											
(Euro)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Income											
Membership dues	27,138.00	33,943.97	28,090.23	23,855.55	23,521.15	25,518.88	29,472.77	28,903.42	29,400.00	29,000.00	30,322.31
Symposium income through treasurers office	28,638.16	5,440.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,069.97	120,532.52	0.00
Bank account interests	1,102.97	2,172.38	3,252.53	2,887.38	1,785.54	1,536.14	1,067.59	111.99	1,289.84	728.72	534.85
Publisher editorial payment	3,975.00	6,846.85	10,829.44	5,775.25	6,738.15	6,158.80	25,041.46	13,409.00	15,549.58	7,108.81	6,448.87
Symposium return (income & returned pre-financial)	19,128.63	22,343.00	0.00	0.00	1,919.79	0.00	14,823.25	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,504.45
Dawson Lecture USD									\$4,800.00	\$4,785.00	
Other income	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income EUR										157,370.05	43,810.48
Income USD										\$4,800.00	\$4,785.00
Income USD in EUR (31.12.XX)										3,531.80	4,376.26
Total Income (EUR)	80,482.76	70,747.09	42,172.20	32,518.18	33,964.63	33,213.82	70,405.07	47,424.41	90,309.39	160,901.85	48,186.74
Marmor Award \$										\$5,980.00	\$0.00
Expenditure											
Treasurers office	540.62	735.49	1,039.31	0.00	0.00	30.00	96.75	121.26	1,213.90	0.00	194.25
Check handling fees, bank charges	532.17	413.83	221.99	119.35	132.60	207.54	340.94	153.41	327.34	516.84	193.19
Credit card handling fees	2,558.88	1,992.41	1,540.32	1,404.16	1,190.20	1,443.39	1,617.38	1,564.51	3,686.65	6,504.08	354.56
Internet services	162.58	569.55	213.54	569.96	212.96	212.96	598.79	1,605.26	2,961.71	2,765.46	96.35
Lawyer	131.10	139.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accounting	1,044.00	696.00	714.00	357.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,501.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Secretary general office / ISCEV board	4,227.60	14,828.00	2,587.20	9,295.54	4,203.40	0.00	0.00	6,951.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Secretary general office / ISCEV board USD										\$1,706.68	
Editors office	1,062.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ISCEV Subscriptions DOOP	31,561.50	26,999.50	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,248.71	28,569.00	0.00	52,483.50	31,779.00	28,087.50
Symposium financing	46,302.48	12,776.57	7,363.23	1,980.26	9,087.03	18,930.85	6,199.02	571.79	20,562.82	120,340.20	0.00
Travel grants	2,457.20	2,893.12	3,499.28	4,870.38	6,990.00	8,000.00	4,300.00	5,000.00	4,685.00	8,962.99	5,790.00
Dawson Lecture							3,600.00	3,500.00	3,600.00	3,531.80	0.00
Dawson Lecture USD											
Lab visits	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,463.19	6,343.81	0.00	4,500.00	3,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00
Expenditure EUR	90,580.63	62,043.67	43,428.87	46,309.84	54,410.00	55,073.45	49,821.88	25,469.71	92,020.92	174,400.37	36,422.53
Expenditure USD									\$0.00	\$1,706.68	
Expenditure USD in EUR (31.12.XX)										0.00	1,560.89
Total Expenditure	90,580.63	62,043.67	43,428.87	46,309.84	54,410.00	55,073.45	49,821.88	25,469.71	92,020.92	174,400.37	37,983.42
Marmor Award \$									\$500.00	\$1,000.00	
Balance											
Total Income - Total Expenditure EUR	-10,097.87	8,703.42	-1,256.67	-13,791.66	-20,445.37	-21,859.63	20,583.19	21,954.70	-1,711.53	-13,498.52	10,203.31
Total Income - Total Expenditure USD										\$4,800.00	\$3,078.32
Income - Expenditure Marmor Award USD										\$5,480.00	-\$1,000.00
Assets (as of 31.12.XX)											
USD Account										\$18,416.46	\$21,494.78
USD Account in EUR	12,591.99	12,888.32	6,266.13	3,958.97	837.38	492.95	4,342.99	7,871.62	11,101.87	15,220.89	19,658.66
EURO Account	12,765.81	22,492.33	35,278.37	28,940.95	9,544.35	6,784.39	75,735.72	23,127.03	33,393.44	38,693.08	98,057.71
Deposit	108,624.58	107,122.08	99,701.48	101,425.24	101,385.41	84,771.43	35,166.30	109,917.72	102,507.97	87,700.00	41,787.70
Total Assets	133,982.38	142,502.73	141,245.98	134,325.16	111,767.14	92,048.77	115,245.01	140,916.37	147,003.28	141,613.97	159,504.07
Marmor Award USD Account \$										\$5,480.00	\$4,480.00
Members (paid, honorary & emeritus)											
	264	283	290	272	275	283	262	306	305	264	249



Report of the Director of International Communications

So what does the DoIC really do? As you know, I occasionally reach out to you with a mass email on important ISCEV business, like voting or deadlines. In these days of constant email overload, I do try to keep their frequency low.

Also, the DoIC maintains the ISCEV website <iscev.org>. There, behind the curtains, quite a lot was going on in this report period: After MAJOR hassles (don't ask), and with big help both in content and emotional support by our Secretary General, we managed to escape first our internet provider and then our domain registrar. Now both roles are provided by one company, markedly less expensive and in another IP range. This improved connectivity to 'far east' (as seen from here :) colleagues and we seem to be no longer blacklisted in some areas.

One thing that has not improved is the function of email aliases, like <president@iscev.com> rather than <alma.patrizia.tormene@unipd.it> etc. This was bad last year, and has become worse: when sending to one of these aliases, some of you (not all and not at all times) got error replies. Lots of gibberish, the important part there is "SMTP error from remote mail server... Relaying denied." Background: on our domain, the mail server tries to relay the message from the alias to the real address. This, however, is prohibited by the "Sender Policy Framework" (look it up in Wikipedia), which has been installed by more and more mail service providers in order to hinder spam distribution. I see no practical way around this, and consequently have replaced all email aliases (president@, sg@, treasurer@ etc.) by the real email address. I'm sure all of you find this extremely interesting...

I have also begun installing a content management system (CMS; WordPress, after long deliberation). This works fine, but will take quite some time to become the main carrier of our content. Furthermore, it opens new entry points that need to be defended: the admin page is continuously swamped by malicious attempts to login as admin, trying out passwords like "admin" or "password" :-). I have installed a WordPress extension that successfully blacklists such attempts, but you perceive the complexity of current internet operation. The ultimate goal of switching to a CMS is to make it easier to add content to the site, via a simple word-processor-like interface.

I conclude, as always: if you have complaints or suggestions re our website, don't hesitate to contact me.

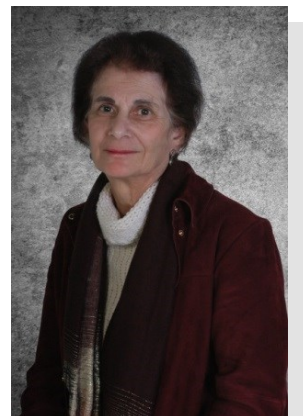
Michael Bach



Regional Vice-Presidents' Reports

Americas

This is my first year as VP of the Americas. I want to express my gratitude to Mitch Brigell, the outgoing VP, who has done a great job in keeping clinical electrophysiology vital in the Americas. He also has made my first year an easy one. This year Mitch organized an ARVO Education Course that was given on the day before the ARVO meeting in Seattle, Washington. The course, entitled: "Clinical Visual Electrophysiology – Exploring the Relevance of Clinical Electrophysiology for Clinical Evaluation and Vision Research" was a great success, with many ISCEV members lecturing. It was well attended, and generally appreciated. Mitch will continue to contribute to ISCEV events in the Americas next year as the Symposium Coordinator for the meeting organized by Byron Lam that will be held in Miami, Florida in the Fall. I finally will be shouldering some responsibility when I organize the North Americas meeting, ISCEV@ARVO in Baltimore Maryland, in May 2017. I look forward to seeing you in Singapore in August and in Baltimore next Spring.



Best wishes, Laura Frishman



Europe and Africa



By the time you read this, the outcome of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union will be known. In these uncertain times for international relations, scientific endeavour is a particularly important means for maintaining communication between countries. How fortunate we are that ISCEV has been able to keep the flame of scientific collaboration and personal friendship alive across boundaries for more than 50 years, even at times where conflict and politics has left the world deeply divided.

Many of us will have fond memories of the 2015 ISCEV meeting in Ljubljana, so ably led by Marco Hawlina, Jelka Brecelj and their colleagues, and joined with European Neuro-ophthalmology Society (EUNOS) meeting. This made opportunities for collaboration as well as a chance to explore the hidden gem which is Slovenia. The Société Française d'Ophtalmologie held its annual congress in Paris in May 2016, at which SEVE held its main annual meeting, with the theme "Electrophysiology for Dummies", attracting 135 attendees. SEVE had held its Autumn meeting in Valenciennes in October 2015, with visiting (Rick Spaide, New York) and local (Gabriel Coscas; Marc de Smet) speakers. It was around this time that ISCEV members voted to hold the 2018 ISCEV congress in Reims. Tony Fisher made a persuasive, scientific case for the city of Liverpool, but Carl Arndt's presentation of la cuisine Française et le champagne evidently proved irresistible.

Autumn was, as usual, a strong season for visual electrophysiology events in Germany, featuring Ulrich Kellner's 19th electrophysiology course for ophthalmologists in Siegburg and Thomas Berninger's electrophysiology course in Munich. There was also a special joint symposium in Berlin between ISCEV and DOG on achromatopsia, in anticipation of the first human gene therapy trials. The 13th BriSCEV meeting was held in Oxford in September 2015, hosted by Charles Cottrill. The theme of the meeting reflected Oxford's strong research interests in genetic diseases of the eye. No visit to Oxford is complete without a voyage in a punt, a flat-bottomed boat propelled by a long pole. The excitement is increased by the moderate probability of falling into the river and the slightly smaller probability of contracting leptospirosis from ingesting the water. Fortunately, all BriSCEV members kept their balance, though one boat missed a turning and was last seen heading in the direction of London. The Moorfields electrophysiology course, led by Graham Holder and Chris Hogg, was held in March 2016 and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists' annual congress in May included a seminar on visual electrophysiology testing in children, to which Richard Smith and Ruth Hamilton contributed. BriSCEV has just held its 14th meeting at Aston University, hosted by Antonio Calcagni.

There will continue to be many opportunities to provide electrophysiology content in conferences across Europe, interesting young scientists and clinicians in a career including visual electrophysiology. We wish to seize as many of these opportunities as we can, but with limits on our time, it may be wise to concentrate efforts on fewer events where there is a good chance of forging links which will stand the test of time.

Richard Smith

Asia & Australasia



The Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) meeting is an important event for ISCEV members from Asia and Oceania. It was held in Taipei, Taiwan in March 2015. The ISCEV symposium "Cutting Edge in Electrophysiology" was organized and chaired by Mineo Kondo (Japan), Shwu-Juan Sheu (Taiwan), and Shuichi Yamamoto (Japan) and gave important clinical and new perspectives on the role of electrophysiology through lectures by Atsuhiko Tanikawa (Japan), Audrey Chia (Singapore), Bo Lei (China), Ted Maddess (Australia), Hoon-Dong Kim (Korea), and Graham Holder (UK). The 63rd Annual Meeting of the JSCEV was held in Nagoya on 29 August 2015, organized by Professor Masayuki Horiguchi of Fujita Health University. There were 21 oral presentations.

Professor Shuichi Yamamoto, MD, PhD



Recollections of a Symposium: Ljubljana 2015

The 53rd Symposium of International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV) met in Ljubljana Slovenia June 24-27, 2015 at the Cankarjev Dom Cultural and Congress Centre.



An interesting feature of this meeting was that it was organized in conjunction with the 12th Congress of the European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (EUNOS) with one joint day. EUNOS started on 21st June, followed by ISCEV on 24th June, when both meetings coincided with a joint opening, part of the day's programme and a joint dinner. There were approximately 300 attendees at each conferences, so over 600 attendees at the joint ISCEV-EUNOS meeting from 40 countries.

The local Congress organizers' team was composed of ophthalmologists and neurophysiologists of the Slovenian Society of Ophthalmology and administrative staff from Cankarjev Dom Congress centre, led jointly by Professor Marko Hawlina, MD, PhD, head of neuro-ophthalmology service, and Professor Jelka Breclj, PhD, head of electrophysiology service at University Eye Hospital, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

For EUNOS members, a well attended course was organized on Electrophysiology in neuro-ophthalmology by Professor Graham Holder (United Kingdom), Marko Hawlina and Jelka Breclj (Slovenia). Also preceding the conference, were the traditional ISCEV clinical and animal courses, organized by Dr Dorothy Thompson, ISCEV Director of Education, with Professor Mathias Seeliger leading on the animal course. On the joint day with EUNOS, there was a joint opening ceremony where the ISCEV president Professor Patrizia Tormene greeted the attendees of both societies whilst EUNOS president, Professor Christopher Kennard, also welcomed all EUNOS and ISCEV delegates.

The joint congress day focused on neuro-ophthalmology conditions where electrophysiology has its role. Graham Holder from Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, delivered the William Dawson Memorial lecture describing how electrophysiology serves neuro-ophthalmology and illustrating its use with a number of fascinating cases. Other invited speakers on that day had lectures interesting to both societies, such as Shlomo Dotan (Israel) on drug toxicity, Thomas Hedges (USA) on ganglion cell complex diseases, Richard Weleber (USA) on paraneoplastic retinopathies, and Eberhart Zrenner (Germany) on the current status of microelectronic aids in blind RP patients. On subsequent days, there were as many as 130 lectures and posters that well represented the current status of electrophysiology, with introductory lectures from Professor Daphne McCulloch on electrophysiologic exploration of early visual development in human infants and by Professor Pierre Lachapelle on rodent models of oxidative retinopathies. ISCEV's Awards and Lectures are described later in this newsletter.





The main joint social events were the welcome dinner, held jointly with EUNOS at Ljubljana Castle which was festive with introduction by folkloric dances. During the dinner, extraordinarily talented musicians Janez Dovč and Boštjan Gombač entertained the public, which rounded out a pleasant meeting.



The Congress dinner in Cankarjev Dom, however, brought almost everyone to the dancefloor, with lots of witty comments and expressions of gratitude from the officers to members that contributed most to the success of the meeting.

ISCEV Olympics followed the next day at Lake Bled, cradle of Slovenian rowing Olympic champions, Luka Špik and Jani Klemenčič who organized the tournament. The competitive spirits of the teams were warmed up with composing and singing, and then culminated with



rowing in rafts over the scenic lake. Fights were fierce and the most stubborn competitors ended in the lake itself. For more pictures from Slovenia, see ISCEV's facebook page or <https://www.flickr.com/gp/iscev/2x3A3q>



Marko Hawlina, Eye Hospital, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia



The Emiko Adachi Award & Lecture: Dr Richard Weleber



The prestigious Emiko Adachi Award Lecture was given by Dr Richard Weleber, Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, USA (pictured on the right). Dr Weleber was introduced by Professor Colin Barber, first recipient of the Award and Chair of the Adachi Award committee. The lecture title was: "Metabolic disease with choroidal atrophy: Gyrate atrophy and LCHADD", and Professor Adachi was present to congratulate him in person (pictured on the left). The 2015 recipient was announced as Professor Michael Bach, and he will deliver the Emiko Adachi Lecture at the 2016 Symposium in Singapore. Professor Bach is the 11th recipient of the Adachi Award, which is given only to members of ISCEV with a record of long and outstanding service to the Society, as well as being a significant contributor to clinical electrophysiology of vision. Previous recipients are listed on the ISCEV website.

The Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award: Ana Fakin

The 20th Annual Dodt Award went to Ana Fakin from Slovenia for her poster presentation "Retina-wide disease and foveal sparing in ABCA4-related retinopathy", work undertaken during her time at Moorfields Eye Hospital, UK. Competition was stiff in 2015, and three further young scientists were commended for their efforts: Dennis Fritsch (UK), Antoine Brassard Simard (Canada) and Panagiotis Sergouniotis (UK, Germany). Frau Dodt presented the €3000 award in person, and she spoke eloquently of the colours in Monet's paintings, and their effect on vision, on mood and the brain, pondering whether vision science can explain such phenomena. Frau Dodt quoted Leonardo da Vinci to the winner, Ana Fakin: "Anyone who is bound to a single star never turns around again."

The Eberhardt Dodt Memorial is awarded each year to the best presentation made by a first author aged under 35 years old.



The Dawson Memorial Lecture: Professor Graham Holder

The 2015 Dawson Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Graham E. Holder, of Moorfields Eye Hospital, University College London and University of Sydney Medical School. Professor Holder is pictured, centre left,



after giving his lecture "The Role of Visual Electrophysiology in Neuro-ophthalmology". Also shown (left to right) are Jelka Brecelj, co-organizer of the 53rd ISCEV symposium; Patrizia Tormene, President of ISCEV; Marko Hawlina, organizer of the 53rd ISCEV symposium and the 12th EUNOS meeting, and Klara Landau, incoming president of EUNOS. This was the 5th Dawson Memorial Lecture, presented annually at the ISCEV Symposium, and enabled by a generous endowment from Judyth Dawson in memory of her beloved husband, Dr William Woodson Dawson, using the proceeds from the trademark of the Dawson-Trick-Litzkow corneal electrode.

Recipients are distinguished researcher in fields allied with visual electrophysiology, often working locally to the region of that year's ISCEV Symposium. Previous recipients are Dr Gerald A Fishman (2011); Professor Carmen Ayuso (2012); Professor Xiong Li Yang (2013) and Dr Artur Cideciyan (2014).



The Marmor Award for Clinical Innovation

This Award, funded by an endowment from Michael Marmor (pictured left), was inaugurated in 2014 to encourage wider clinical applications or enhance practicality of visual electrophysiology testing. Projects rather than individuals win, rewarding work which progresses to the next level of translation. Initial awards of \$500 US are made to promising projects each year, and a single, larger award of \$2,500 US is made two years later to any initial project that most successfully translates the preliminary work into clinical value.

Two initial awards were made in 2014 and both are now eligible for the follow-up award, to be announced in Singapore. One initial award was made in 2015, to Ruth Hamilton (pictured) and Kirsten Graham, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, UK, for a project investigating the effect of shorter dark-adaptation on ISCEV Standard ERGs.



ISCEV policy on filming / photography

Following discussions at last year's membership meeting (see pp 15–6), the Board developed some policy options on filming and photography during ISCEV Symposia. The Membership voted for the policy below: "Filming, photography or recording is allowed during all scientific sessions (paper and posters), unless presenters specifically indicate that they do not agree to recording. Use of recorded data is strictly personal and non-commercial. Recording must be non-disruptive."



YSCEV MEETING

Young Society for Clinical
Electrophysiology of Vision

MORNING SESSION 8 - 8.45 AM
EVENING SESSION 5.30 PM

**THE ACADEMIA,
LEVEL 1, ROOM
L1-S4
16.08.16**

**ARE YOU UNDER 35 OR
QUALIFY FOR ISCEV
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP?
JOIN US!**

WHAT IS YSCEV?

We are a network of young & early career researchers & clinicians interested in electrophysiology of vision.

We want to provide a platform for early career researchers & clinicians to communicate and network.



Find us on
Facebook





55th ISCEV Symposium: Invitation to Miami, FL, USA

23rd–26th October 2017, Miami, Florida, USA

**A Heartfelt Welcome to the Vibrant City of Miami
from the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and ISCEV Colleagues in the USA**

Miami is a major international modern center and has a unique blend of culture, entertainment, and the arts, all in an idyllic tropical beach setting. In 2008, Forbes magazine ranked Miami "America's Cleanest City", for its year-round good air quality and vast green spaces. Miami consistently ranks as one of the top tourist destinations in the United States.

Venue

Miami is an airline hub and is easily accessible with convenient flights from international cities. The Bascom Palmer Eye Institute auditorium is located 15 minutes from the airport and provides a state-of-art conference environment. The Marriott Stanton South Beach Hotel is 15 minutes east of the Eye Institute. The Hotel located right on the quite part of South Beach has 2 heated pools among other amenities. Daily rate for a single room has been negotiated to \$175 (\$200 total with tax) and for a 2



double-beds room to \$195 (\$225 total). Transportation to and from the conference auditorium will be provided.

Hospitality and Social Program

A welcome reception will be held at a waterfront restaurant on Monday evening. The Olympics will take place on the beach on Wednesday. On Thursday afternoon, the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens with its largest collection of palm trees in the world will offer a pleasant prelude to the farewell gala. For accompanying persons, visits to well-known sites such as Parrott Jungle Island, an interactive zoological park, as well as the Vizcaya Museum are being planned.

Estimated cost of registration: USD \$700

We look forward to welcoming you to South Florida

Host: Byron Lam and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute



56th ISCEV Symposium: Invitation to Reims, France

20th–23rd June 2018, Reims, France

The French Society of Exploration of Vision and Electrophysiology (**SEVE**) has the great pleasure to invite you to the heart of Champagne

A powerful city in the Roman Empire, over two thousand years old, the **coronation site** of 33 French Kings, **Reims** is a historical city which deserves absolutely to be visited. You are invited to discover its rich and varied monuments listed in the UNESCO World Heritage, its museums, testimonies of its prestigious past, its champagnes and its gastronomy. Reims is also a gateway to visit the northern half of France from Alsace to Normandy and Brittany, and nearby Belgium.

Venue

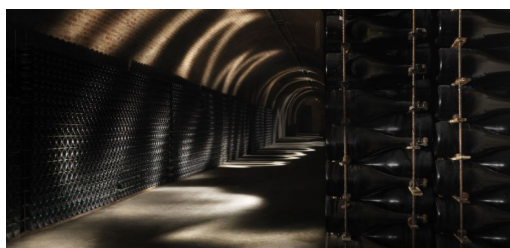
There are High Speed Train (TGV) connections to **Paris** (45 minutes), **Charles de Gaulle Airport** (30 minutes), **London** Saint Pancras via Marne la Vallée (3 hours) and Bruxelles (2 hours). The contemporary Convention Centre has a comfortable Auditorium with leather seating located within a park in the City Centre with many restaurants, five minutes walking distance from the station and 10 minutes from 64 major hotels and apartment houses of different categories (50€-250€/night).



Hospitality and Social programme

A Welcome Reception in the **City Hall** will be held on Wednesday evening. On Thursday evening, all the participants are invited to a **Concert** given by the **Cathedral Singers** taking place in the Basilica. The **Gala dinner** on Friday evening at **Pommery** will give the occasion for all participants to visit at least one Champagne cellar! The **Olympics** will take place on Saturday afternoon in another wonderful Pommery location, a **Stadium** designed in 1920, situated in a lovely park. On Sunday morning, the “**Mountain of Reims**” will offer a charming scenery for the **cycling tour**.

For the accompanying people, there will be a visit of the famous Cathedral, a City Tour, excursions to several small wine houses within the “Mountain of Reims” and a visit to another famous city of Champagne, **Epernay**, with its cellars in limestone soil.



Expected cost of registration: 500 euros

We are looking forward to welcome you to Reims !!

For the SEVE organization committee: Carl Arndt, Martine Crochet, Serge Rosolen, Marc Talmud



Minutes of the 2015 ISCEV Membership Meeting

(draft for approval)

16:30, Friday 26th June, Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana, Slovenia

65 Members were in attendance.

Opening & welcome by the President

Professor Patrizia Tormene opened the meeting and thanked the hosts, Professor Marko Hawlina, Professor Jelka Breclj and their team. Patrizia Tormene outlined the membership's duties as listed in the bye-laws Article XV, 1–4.

Minutes of the 2014 ISCEV Membership Meeting

The minutes of the 2014 ISCEV Membership Meeting, as printed in the 2015 Newsletter, were adopted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Report from the 2015 Symposium Organiser

Marko Hawlina and Jelka Breclj presented the organiser's report. Marko Hawlina noted that Ljubljana had offered three times to host before the membership voted in its favour, and that this vote made him both pleased and anxious. Holding a combined meeting with the 12th Biennial Congress of the European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (EUNOS) had proven a success and had highlighted the utility of electrophysiology in neuro-ophthalmology. 227 registrations had been received from 38 countries. There were 39 and 6 registrations for the human and animal courses respectively. He noted the contribution of his co-chair, Jelka Breclj and the team, and highlighted some difficulties with producing two versions of the abstract book. He noted the good social programme and finished by announcing a small financial surplus. The membership thanked the hosts with a warm round of applause.

Filming and photography during the Symposium

This item had been raised due to the increasing occurrence of Symposium delegates using photography and filming during the Symposium. Professor Graham Holder proposed that any such photography or filming should be banned completely, and any person found filming should be ejected from the session. Many members contributed to the subsequent discussion, some supporting Graham Holders' position, some opposing it, and some suggesting moderate intermediate positions. Patrizia Tormene thanked members for their input. Dr Ruth Hamilton informed the membership that the Board would work on a policy or policies for further discussion with the membership via email.

Elections

VP of Americas: Patrizia Tormene noted that Dr Mitch Brigell had completed two terms of office. She thanked him for his work for the Society, including his organising of ISCEV@ARVO, and his work on ISCEV Standards amongst other services. The membership showed their appreciation with a round of applause. Patrizia Tormene noted that Professor Laura Frishman had been nominated as Vice-President of the Americas, and that the Board approved the nomination. No further nominations were received from the floor. Dr Mitch Brigell spoke in support of Laura Frishman, citing her suitability, and confirming that she was eligible and willing to stand. The membership approved Laura Frishman's election with a show of hands.

President: Patrizia Tormene noted she had completed one term as President and that she was eligible and willing to stand for a second. For transparency, she noted a recent change in her work whereby she had retired from her hospital work, but retained her role as a University Senior Scientist as well as her private electrophysiology practice. There were no further nominations from the floor. Ruth Hamilton therefore announced that Patrizia Tormene was duly elected to serve a second term as President, and the Membership applauded.

ISCEV Officer's Reports and matters arising

The treasurer's report was presented as in the 2015 Newsletter. Prof Mathias Seeliger noted the large symposium income in 2014 was due to iscev.org handling symposium registrations, and offered to answer any questions. The membership accepted the Treasurer's report by a show of hands, and also exonerated the Treasurer by a show of hands.

The Editor-in-Chief, Pierre Lachapelle, noted the increase in the 5-year impact factor (IF) of *Documenta Ophthalmologica* (DOOP), from 1.798 to 1.97. He noted the importance of the Standards in maintaining and improving the IF, and the importance of citing the most recent version of the Standard in any publication. He exhorted members to do this themselves, and also to prompt for this if reviewing for DOOP or for other journals. He noted discussions about inviting named lecturers to provide a summary of their talks for publication. Marko Hawlina congratulated Pierre Lachapelle on the increased IF and asked about the possibility of regular review articles based on ISCEV protocols. Pierre Lachapelle responded that this was indeed one of the possible strategies being pursued.

The Director of Education, Dr Dorothy Thompson, thanked Maya Sustar, Marko Hawlina, Jelka Breclj and their team for the excellent local organisation of the 2015 courses. Dorothy noted the participation of all the manufacturers in the demonstration sessions which had been expanded this year, and thanked them for their support. She also acknowledged the valuable support of the ophthalmic nursing staff. She noted that many registrations for the course were received close to the start date which made planning and budgeting difficult and urged the membership to help by raising awareness locally with their own trainees or junior staff so that registrations could be received in good time.



The Director of Standards, Professor Daphne McCulloch, noted the specific changes contained in the 2015 update to the ERG Standard, mostly about flash specification, inclusion of skin electrode with caveats, the addition of the DA 10 as an equal-status ERG, and the possibility of only recording a sub-set if required by the clinical situation. An erratum had been published due to a decimal place error being introduced at publishing.

Other reports were as in the 2015 newsletter without addition.

The membership exonerated the Board.

Highlights from the 2015 Board meeting

Maintaining vigour of the Society was discussed, and strategies were planned to make training more widely available, to boost membership numbers, and to explore the possibility of a lab-accreditation standard. Sub-groups of the Board will take these forward initially before widening discussions to the membership.

Mitch Brigell noted that the basic sciences course at AAO had a heavily updated section on electrophysiology.

Travel awards: 10 applicants were received and eight awards were made. Two were both course and Symposium attendance; two were course only, and four were for Symposium only.

There were 25 applications for the Eberhart Dodt Memorial Award.

Marmor Award: Mike Marmor stated that 2015 had seen several submissions for the Award, but that many projects did not fit the entrance criteria, which focussed on easier testing or increased applicability. He encouraged the Membership to express their views. A result of discussion at the Board had been to extend the time from initial award to follow-up award from 1 to 2 years, as 1 year was not sufficient to show translation. The Marmor Committee were still deciding whether to consider all abstracts submitted or to limit it to those who had applied by ticking the box during abstract submission. The Award was gaining momentum, and continued to work to find the best ways to achieve its goals.

ISCEV Standards

Professor Daphne McCulloch noted four updates: 1. The ERG standard had been published on schedule, and she highlighted the specific changes from the previous standard. A publisher's erratum had been printed due to a decimal place error. 2. The VEP Standard update was chaired by J Vern Odom, with a committee comprising Michael Bach, Mitchell Brigell, Graham Holder, Atsushi Mizota, Daphne L McCulloch and A Patrizia Tormene. Preparation of a draft with minor revisions was underway. The membership consultation will be electronic, based on a posted draft, and a subsequent electronic membership vote based on a revised draft after the consultation period. 3. Extended Protocols were being addressed, with the convenor Suresh Viswanathan, who was recruiting working parties to develop extended protocols. Email details will follow. The following Extended Electrophysiological Protocols were at Stage 1 (Approval in Concept): ERGs to long-duration flashes (on and off responses); dark-adapted ERG luminance- response series; S-cone ERG; Photopic negative response; dark-adapted long wave-length (red flash) ERG; light-adapted luminance- response series (photopic hill); saturated a-wave series (for slope analysis); scotopic threshold response (STR) and VEP threshold ('acuity') protocols. 4. ISCEV Guidelines to clinical procedures were being chaired by Scott Brodie, with a committee comprising E Eugenie Hartmann, Graham Holder, Anne Fulton, Josefin Nilsson, Anthony Robson and A Patrizia Tormene. The committee were working on a revised draft. The membership will be consulted for feedback, but the guide does not require a vote.

Mike Marmor commented that extended protocols needed to include diverse labs and disparate protocols, and noted the benefit of working teams preparing a short review or technical note for DOOP; this proposal was supported by the Editor-in-Chief, Pierre Lachapelle. Graham Holder asked for clarification of the Membership's role in extended protocols, and the membership's attention was drawn to the "Process for Proposal, Review and Approval of Extended Protocols", available on the website.

Future ISCEV Symposia

2016: Singapore (Symposium Coordinator: Suichi Yamamoto): Ranjana Mathur presented some details of the planned meeting on 13–18 August 2016 including conference venue at the Eye Hospital, noting ease of transport and visas for many countries. Hotels cost from 100–300 euros per night, and hostel accommodation was available from around 20 euros per night.

2017: Key Largo, Florida (Symposium Coordinator Mitch Brigell). Byron Lam was unable to attend, and had sent details which were presented by Mitch Brigell. The likely date was October 2017 (*note: not August as stated during meeting*) and the venue was likely to be Hawk's Cay, some 60 miles south of Miami airport. Registration was anticipated at around \$700. Mitch Brigell will take questions raised by members back to Byron Lam and his team.

2018: Europe & Africa. Two cities offered to host the 2018 Symposium: Liverpool, UK, with Professor Tony Fisher as host and Reims, France, headed by Professor Carl Arndt. Both candidates will go forward to an e-ballot of the whole membership.

Any other business

No further business had been notified to the Secretary-General.

Close

The meeting closed at 18:00.

Dr Ruth Hamilton
Secretary-General
December 2015