

Minutes of the IFCN European Chapter General Meeting

30 October 2010, 13:00 – 14:00

Hotel Protopia, Kobe:

- Presidential addresses: PM Rossini, L Garcia-Larrea

Both Paolo Rossini and Luis Garcia-Larrea reported on the ECCN 2011 Rome Congress

- Report from the former Secretary / Treasurer : Luis Garcia Larrea

New ExCo:

Chairman : Luis Garcia-Larrea (Lyon) – 2010

Secretary / Treasurer : Walter Paulus (Gottingen) – 2010

Member-at-Large : Anders Fulgsang Frederiksen (Aarhus) – 2005

Member-at-Large : Jonathan Cole (Poole) – 2008

Liaison Officer with IFCN : Mamede de Carvalho (Lisbon) - 2010

This report was further split into :

Good points

1) Life of the EC-IFCN

Communication policy of the EC-IFCN ExCo

2005 – 2006 video-conferences + 1 formal presidential meeting

→ 2007 – 2010 audio-conferences, no presidential meeting

zero cost

2007-2008

ECCN 2008 Organisation

16 audio-conferences with organizers Jan 07 – May 08

1020 e-mail messages, July 07 - May 08

2009-2010

Statutes modification & elections 2009 – 2010

4 audio-conferences

648 e-mail messages EC ExCo + IFCN ExCo + Rules Comm

2. Web site and changes in it

Up till now the website has been hosted by Lyon University :<http://ifnl.univ-lyon1.fr/ec-ifcn/>

A new address will be introduced by the new secretary. Some of the addresses in the Website are likely to be obsolete, and others are lacking. Please check the existing list in the Website; it is important that each new National Delegate sends his/her name and postal / e-mail address and a personal photo for the website to : wpaulus@med.uni-goettingen.de

3) Changes in EC-IFCN Statutes

A 4-phases track, submitted and agreed upon by 90% of National Societies (April – June 2009) was performed:

Phase A) Ask Delegates whether they agree to a change in the Statutes in order to allow postal or email ballot in the EC. This was completed by the end of July 2009 with a rate of agreement beyond 90%, and no opposition or abstentions.

Phase B) The present EC ExCo prepared and circulated a document (dated August 8th 2009) proposing that the relevant Statutes modifications were to be discussed until a majority agreement was obtained. The document was approved, with requests of minor modifications, by 27 out of 36 associated National Societies contacted (75%)

Phase C) Submission of the final Statutes version containing in blue the relevant parts which have been modified after the suggestions received by the Delegates. Final vote and acceptance (October 2009)

Phase D) Dispatch of the new version to the IFCN-ExCo for approval. Minor modifications were still demanded, and final approval by IFCN Rules Committee was achieved in January 2010.

4) EC-IFCN sponsored courses & meetings :

The Chapter has supported 22 regional courses between October 2005 and October 2010.

Courses / Meetings sponsored by EC-IFCN

Bucharest (Romania) EMG 2010
Ljubljana (Slovenia) Visual electrophysiology 2010
Copenhagen (Denmark) SCORE project meeting 2010
Sofia (Bulgaria) Motor Neuron 2010
Granada (Spain) Polysomnography 2010
Lyon (France) Pain assessment 2010
Brussels (Belgium) – CNP & legal expertise 2009
Belgrade (Serbia & Montenegro) EEG 2009
Haifa (Israel) – Evoked Potentials 2008
Madrid (Spain) – Motor Control 2008
Copenhagen (Denmark) – Sleep Medicine 2008
Siena (Italy) – Safety in rTMS 2007
Vilnius (Lithuania) – Sleep 2007
Paris (France) – Cortical Stimulation 2008
Lisbon (Portugal) –Clinical Neurophysiology 2007
Prague (Check Republic) – EMG 2007
Lyon (France) –Laser EPs 2007
Granada (Spain) –EMG 2006
Belgrade (Serbia & Montenegro) –EMG 2006

The standard procedure for supported courses is as follows:

1. A call for propositions is sent by e-mail to all national delegates and posted in the Chapter's Web site.
2. Applicants must propose a full program covering 1-2 days of teaching / training
3. Since 2006, applications for combined course – scientific meetings are considered. Eligible propositions are discussed by the ExCo members (video-meeting or audio-conference). Two Regional Courses are selected per tender.

The Chapter supports course-meeting expenses up to a maximum of 3,500 € per Course / meeting. This money is for reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses of the Faculty, coffee breaks and teaching documents handed to the students. The organizers acknowledge the EC-IFCN support in all public documents

- **Dark points**

Visibility of (European) Clinical Neurophysiology

1) « brain and paper leakage » : the best scientific papers of our colleagues are not published in Clinical Neurophysiology Journals

2) IPF = Impact Factor Pressure : colleagues, especially young, are under strong pressure to publish in high-impact journals. Unfortunately, ClinPh is not among them

3) Recognition of medical specialty : although CN is recognized as an European Medical Specialty by the UEMS, National policies prevail and in several major countries (e.g. France, Germany) it is not individualized, neither as a specialty nor as an official 'supra-specialty'. Some effort is being done in France by the National CN Society (SNCLF) to install CN as a supra-specialty of (at least) Neurology.

4) Funding Research : International visibility of CN (and the Chapter) needs the possibility of funding research on different topics –need more money for this

5) A current state of finances was given, the amount available is €22,000 pending reimbursement of the last three Courses / meetings in 2010.

6. Reports from Members-at-Large.

JC. In preliminary discussions with our Chair we discussed how conferences tend to attract the most research and politically active members of our community, and that there was less forum for consideration of the fundamental clinical work most of us do day to day. It was therefore decided to raise our concerns which are detailed elsewhere about clinical workload, training, standards and guidelines and recruitment to the specialty as well as others about the strengths and weaknesses of the specialty itself, (see above and 8).

This took up most of the discussion time available. In addition the Committee of the EC-IFCN agreed that this should be followed up both by determining the current situation in individual countries and revisiting the excellent work done by Theresa Segales on this some years ago.

Anders Fuglsang-Frederiksen and Sándor Beniczky

SCORE: Standardised Computer-based Organised Reporting of EEG

The project is as much on assessment of EEG as on the reporting of the findings (we report what we assess, but we also assess what we have to report).

The aim of the project is to create a computer-based system for EEG description, where the physicians would construct the reports by choosing from pre-defined elements for each relevant EEG feature, as well as the clinical phenomena - for long term video-EEG monitoring.

A working group of 25 EEG experts from 15 European countries took part in a consensus workshop in Dianalund, Denmark, in January 2010. The faculty was approved by the Commission on European Affairs of the ILAE. The working group produced a consensus proposal. The European Chapter of the IFCN has asked each national society to nominate one or two EEG experts, who would represent the society in the SCORE project. The SCORE group would receive the comments and suggestions from the representatives of the national societies, and will revise the consensus proposal and the software based on these.

The SCORE software will provide quality control for the EEG assessment and reporting, it will help incorporating the results of computer-assisted analysis into the report, it will make possible the build-up of a multinational database, and it will help in training young neurophysiologists.

7. Report from Liaison Officer with IFCN

Message from Mamede de Carvalho: The IFCN is aimed to enlarge the participation of Biomedical engineers and technicians in our activities, and in particular in our Congresses. In Rome we expect to meet Biomedical engineers and technicians' representatives in order to define the cooperation scenario and futur interaction. Moreover, the IFCN is very concerned about the need show clinical neurophysiology as appealing to young medical doctors. The possibility of young clinical neurophysiologists meetings has been discussed and this new initiative is being analysed. In Europe, the support of less advanced countries is strongly recommended.

8. Discussion about future perspective of Clinical Neurophysiology in Europe. A slightly depressive estimation on the future perspective of Clinical Neurophysiology as a specialty in Europe predominated when discussed in relation to neurology. Strategies were suggested for improvement such as pushing forward criteria for quality standards which have been realized e.g. in Denmark, as well as improving our lobbying capacity in Brussels.

The Chapter ExCo asked all Delegates to send in written form the different proposals that were heard and discussed, to evaluate our possibility to implement them.