

ECNS Business Meeting, Geneva, Sept. 04, 2013

MINUTES 2013

I. General Information:

Business Meeting starts on Sept. 04, 2013, 1pm to 4pm (continued 12.30pm to 2pm, Sept. 05, 2013), room 1170, Uni-MAIL, Geneva, Switzerland.

Attendees:

Board Members, Officers and Councilors (participants with voting rights):

Silvana Galderisi (SG, immediate past president, program), Armida Mucci (AM, website committee), Dean Salisbury (DS, president), Pierre Flor-Henry (PFH, councilor), Ivan Bodis-Wollner (IBW, program), Bernd Saletu (BS, councilor, pharmaco-EEG), Lukasz Konopka (LK, councilor, pharmaco-EEG), Thomas Koenig (TK, councilor), Eric Sellers (ES, treasurer), Norman Moore (NM, journal editor), Nezvati Tarhan (TK, councilor, award), Oliver Pogarell (OP, secretary, pres. elect)

Without vote: Elizabeth Zimmerman (EZ, Chicago), Newton Agrawal (NA, ETSU)

Quorum (at least 7 voting participants) fulfilled.

II. Old Business

DS: Greeting and Recognition of Attendees

OP: Review and Approval of Minutes from 2012:

motion to approve by IBW, seconded by DS: minutes 2012 approved, unanimous vote

III. New Business

DS: Status of the Society

Membership: target (break-even point): $n = 90$, currently not met (82 members)

New membership drive required, in cooperation with SAGE

SAGE contract: there are still some problems with the contract with SAGE, regarding the subscriptions needed (esp. institutional subscriptions), incorrect invoices sent to the members, late notice of renewal, etc.

There are monthly phone conferences of the executive board with SAGE, proposal to have quarterly phone conferences of all ECNS officers/committee chairs.

Unresolved issue of secretary/president elect/president schedule and sequence, given objections of some council members regarding the dual involvement of OP in ECNS and ISNIP; OP is expected to become ISNIP president in 2016.

Discussions whether there is a significant conflict of interest of OP.

(vote of the board: YES, there is a conflict of interest: n=5/SG, AM, IBW, NM, TK;
NO, there is no expectable conflict of interest: n=6/DS, PFH, BS, LK, ES, OP).

Although the Board majority felt no conflict was present, OP offered to postpone his Presidency to avoid any perceived COI. The following preliminary schedule was decided:

	Pres	Pres-elect	Secr.
Year 2013-2014	DS	OP	OP
Year 2014-2015	DS	AM	AM (given re-election of DS, election of AM)
Year 2015-2016	DS	AM	AM
Year 2016-2017	AM	tbd	tbd
Year 2017-2018	AM	tbd	tbd

ES: Treasurer's report:

See written report for details, in brief:

The Bristol Meeting 2012 led to a positive financial result with earnings of about USD 19.000.-.

As of Sept. 2013, ECNS has approx. USD 15.000.- in the bank account in credit.

According to the contract with SAGE, there might be outstanding debts of USD 19.000.-, which could result in an overall balance of USD 4.000.- (debit).

Negotiations with SAGE are required, esp. regarding wrong invoices for membership renewals, which might have led to significant losses (in both income and members).

Motion to approve the Report by OP, seconded by DS: unanimous vote to approve; unanimous vote (according to a suggestion by ES, NM and others) to acknowledge Kelly Brown for her contribution. This shall be officially awarded during the 2014 Meeting.

Negotiations with SAGE will be conducted by DS, ES, and Derek Fisher (DF, membership committee) in phone conferences shortly.

OP: Secretary Report:

Membership: One major issue from October to December 2012 was the membership count together with a new membership drive. It was suggested to include a junior membership for young colleagues (MD, PhD) at very low membership dues in order to increase the number of young and active members of ECNS. Furthermore, there were negotiations with SAGE to include this junior membership on the website. However, there were difficulties regarding its technical implementation and realisation.

In early 2013, it became apparent that the membership letters and the invoices by SAGE were partly incorrect leading to a dramatic decrease in memberships. DF, DS, and the executive board made an effort to fix these problems.

Annual Conference: Regarding the Geneva meeting, it turned out that the ECNS visibility was rather low, maybe due to the fact that this meeting was organised by another society as a joint meeting of no less than five societies. ECNS visibility should be improved in the future and the general usefulness of large joint meetings is to be discussed.

Together with SAGE, it could be guaranteed that all abstracts of the meeting will be published electronically by SAGE in our journal *Clinical EEG & Neuroscience*, which is a major step towards the visibility of ECNS.

Awards: According to an email exchange with Kemal Arikan (KA), there were no award proposals in 2012/2013. The handling of the awards should be improved in the future. This should be discussed during the business meeting in Geneva.

Future Meetings: There has been extensive email-exchange regarding the 2014 meeting and a proposal by DF to host the conference in Halifax, September 2014. Currently, there are negotiations with hotels (Westin), and universities (MSVU, Dalhousie), DF provided a synopsis with the approx. cost of each venue (USD 25.500.-/Westin; 16.000.-/Dalhousie, MSVU). NT offered to host a future meeting in Istanbul (see also: Report of Program Committee).

Officers and Council: With respect to the bylaws, officers and council, there are quite a number of councilors at large to be re-elected and to be replaced:

Re-election is required for KA and NT.

The following board members have to be replaced: Nash Boutros (NB, resigned), PFH, OP, BS, Andrei Vedeniapien (AV).

Active board members are: Petr Bob (PB), TK, LK, AM.

According to the bylaws, at least 9 councilors at large should be active. So, after the re-election of 2 councilors, at least 2 (maximum 5) new councilors are required.

ES will resign from his position as treasurer, which means a new candidate is urgently needed for this post.

The following proposals were discussed and decided:

Re-election of KA and NT: Re-elected, unanimous vote.

New members of the council:

IBW: Elected, unanimous vote.

DF: Elected, unanimous vote.

NA: Elected, unanimous vote.

EZ: Elected, unanimous vote.

Giorgio di Lorenzo (GDL): Elected, unanimous vote

The new council at large is as follows:

1. Kemal Aarikan, MD, PhD - mkarikan@istanbul.edu.tr > first elected 2010, re-elected 2013, 2nd term 2013 - 2016
2. Petr Bob, MD - petrbob@netscape.net > first elected 2012, 1st term 2012-2015
3. Elizabeth Zimmerman > first elected 2013, 1st term 2013-2016
4. Newton Agrawal > first elected 2013, 1st term 2013-2016
5. Thomas Koenig, PhD - thomas.koenig@puk.unibe.ch > first elected 2012, 1st term 2012-2015
6. Lukasz Konopka, Ph.D. - lmkonopka@gmail.com > 2nd term 2012-2015
7. Armida Mucci, MD, PhD -armida.mucci@gmail.com > 2nd term 2012-2015
8. Ivan Bodis-Wollner, MD - first elected 2013, 1st term 2013-2016
9. Giorgio di Lorenzo, MD - first elected 2013, 1st term 2013-2016
10. Derek Fisher, PhD - first elected 2013, 1st term 2013-2016
11. Nevzat Tarhan, MD - ntarhan@mcatürk.com > first elected 2010, re-elected 2013, 2nd term 2013-2016
12. vacant

Regarding officers, the position of an Assistant Treasurer is currently vacant. It was decided unanimously that an Ass. Treasurer should be nominated by the next Treasurer, who will be elected in 2014 (ES will resign in 2014 and is offering to serve as councilor at large thereafter).

The position of the Chief Editor of the Journal will be taken on by DS in 2014.

Misc.: According to the bylaws, there are two further standing committees, articles, bylaws and ECNS chapters that are currently vacant. This was discussed during the business meeting; it was decided to cancel these standing committees with an unanimous vote.

The bylaws have to be modified accordingly.

The secretary's report was unanimously accepted.

NM: Clinical EEG Journal Report:

Summary of the board meeting earlier on the same day (see also the respective minutes for details); there will be a major change in the editorial board with DS to take over the position of the Chief Editor in 2014.

SG, IBW: Program Committee:

The 2012 Meeting was briefly reviewed, again thanks to the organizers for this successful meeting.

The 2013 meeting is very well organized, however, the visibility (the attendance of members) of ECNS is rather low. This should be improved again in the future.

2014: There is a proposal for Halifax, well documented and carefully worked out, presented by DF (MSVU), including a financial plan for three options: Westin/Dalhousie/MSVU. In addition, IBW proposed to host the meeting in New York, since there will be an opportunity to use rooms at St. Francis College as venue without charge.

These options were discussed. With broad agreement, it was decided that ECNS should favor Halifax for 2014 (NYC might be a good option for 2016), given the detailed financial plan for Halifax and a rather preliminary proposal (at this stage) for New York.

In 2015 there is a proposal by ISNIP to organize the meeting in Munich, Germany.

NT proposed Üsküdar University, Istanbul as a further option for an ECNS sponsored meeting (2016, 2018...).

AM: Publications/Website Committee:

In general, the website is in good shape, John Richards is doing a good job, promptly and reliably.

It was proposed to include additional 'interactive' sections (esp. to attract young members/scientists): debate, blog, discussion board, etc. EZ will join the committee and make suggestions.

The access to the 'internal section' (for members only) is currently unclear (login, passwords, etc.) – this will be followed up with SAGE.

DF: Membership Committee

DF was absent, DS read out the written report:

"Firstly, I am pleased to be making my first report as chair of the ECNS membership committee. Currently, our membership is very low, with 82 members as of August 30, 2013. There has been a drop in membership numbers over the past year or so, which we believe is at least partially due to the changeover to SAGE publishing. In moving to SAGE, there were some hurdles as far as transferring membership responsibilities as well as the reminding and processing of membership renewals. Many of our membership may be unaware that SAGE is handling membership registration now and therefore may have dismissed reminder emails from SAGE as junk mail. We have put into place measures that address this issue specifically, including emails to lapsed members sent directly by Dr. Dean Salisbury and myself reminding them to renew their membership and highlighting our partnership with SAGE. From their end, SAGE has been incredibly helpful and is currently providing me with monthly membership updates as we re-grow our membership.

Despite the low numbers, we are optimistic that our membership numbers will significantly increase over the next year. In order to bring this to fruition, we are implementing several strategies of focused recruitment. The first of these strategies is regional recruitment in underrepresented countries; we will ask current ECNS members to identify scientists and clinicians within their own country whose work falls within the mandate of ECNS. For example, I am compiling a list of people to approach regarding ECNS membership in Canada and Dean and I will contact members willing to do the same for European and Asian countries. The second strategy of focused recruitment will aim at particular disciplines and areas of clinical/research interest. Again by way of example, Dr. Eric Sellers has agreed to identify and contact members of the Brain-

Computer Interface community to directly invite them to join our society, while Dean and I will target scientists and clinicians who use event-related potentials in the context of psychiatric illness. To this end, if any board members are willing to take part in these efforts within their own country or discipline, we would certainly welcome and help we can get in identifying potential new members. Please contact Dean if you would like to cover a specific target area. The plan is for him to develop topic areas and contact potential area heads after this meeting.

Another area where we intend to focus recruitment is on young investigators. In the past year, we introduced a promotion wherein young investigators (including undergraduate students, graduate/medical students, interns and post-doctoral fellows) could join ECNS for a reduced rate of \$40. The rationale behind this drive is two-fold: 1) Firstly, we hope that by welcoming them into the ECNS early in their career, they will be likely to progress to full membership, and 2) Having a number of young members will spark a renewed vibrancy at society meetings and within the society as a whole, increasing participation at all levels in the operation of the ECNS. To this end, it may be worth considering introducing an early-career membership tier, with reduced fees, in order to promote membership retention in those who joined as young investigators.

A final, and more global, recruitment strategy that we are in the process of implementing targets scientists and clinicians who publish in the society journal, Clinical EEG & Neuroscience. As many of you are aware, the impact factor for Clinical EEG & Neuroscience has risen yet again and is now ranked in the top half of neuroimaging journals. With this increased ranking, I think it is fair to expect increased interest in (and submissions to) the journal. In order to take advantage of this, we will be including information regarding membership in ECNS (including a direct link to the membership application page) in the letter authors receive confirming acceptance of their manuscript. We hope that some of the good feelings produced by the letter of acceptance will carry over towards the ECNS, but at the very least this will increase awareness of the society.

That sums up our status regarding current membership and our future plans to bolster these numbers. If anyone has specific comments or suggestions as to how we might improve these strategies (or new ideas), or would like to volunteer in our recruitment efforts, please feel free to contact me directly at derek.fisher@msvu.ca."

The following suggestions were discussed by the board to increase membership:

- emphasize clinical aspects of our society
- young scientists should be attracted by blogs, new members forums, training/webinars on the website
- workshops at future meetings, students' sessions, etc.

Every board member is asked to recruit at least one junior and one full paying member before the next meeting.

BS, LK: Pharmaco-EEG Committee

BS reported that there is a dramatic decrease in interest and engagement by the pharmaceutical industry in Pharmaco-EEG, there are almost no sponsored meetings any more, nor sponsored pharmaco-EEG studies.

As a consequence pharmaco-EEG is an underutilized tool.

Both BS and LK suggested that there should be an initiative for symposia on pharmaco-EEG at the forthcoming meeting in 2014, focusing on clinical aspects.

This initiative was unanimously supported by the board.

LK: Examination Work Group

Regarding certification, not much progress has been made in the past year. However, there are several boards that provide/offer training and certification. This process has to

be carefully observed. Given the scope of our society, ECNS should be among the organizations providing standards and quality measures in this respect.

LK asked the board for endorsement as an ECNS representative in these boards, so that ECNS is somehow involved in these issues and able to monitor the developments.

After some discussion, the board approved this proposal unanimously.

KA, NT: Awards Committee

KA was absent; according to an email exchange with OP, there were no proposals for awards in the past year.

It was decided that both KA and NT should improve the visibility of the awards and carefully follow up proposals and the handling of proposals early in 2014.

KA and NT will be supported by the president (DS), and the Conference Committee will assume greater oversight of the Awards procedure.

It is important for the visibility and acknowledgement of ECNS that the award committee is active and effective.

End of the business meeting: Sept. 05, 2013, 2 pm

Oliver Pogarell
Dean Salisbury
Sept. 10, 2013