

## **ISN Council Meeting 2016**

### **Montevideo, Uruguay**

**Thursday, March 31**

**Invited:** the ISN Executive Committee; all members of the ISN Council; PC co-chairs for ICN 2016; representatives of the ICN 2016 LOC; representatives of the ICN 2018 LOC; representative of Allen Press.

**Attending:** **Peter Narins** (ISN President, presiding); **Alison Mercer** (ISN Past President); **Catharine Rankin** (ISN President-Elect); **Paul Katz** (ISN President Emeritus); **Karen Mesce** (ISN Treasurer); **Susan Fahrback** (ISN Secretary, scribe); **Ari Berkowitz** (Council); **Bruce Carlson** (Council); **Eric Fortune** (Council); **Christina Köppl** (Council); **Rüdiger Krahe** (Council); **Daphne Soares** (Council); **Sarah Woolley** (Council); **Jose Peña** (Council and PC co-chair); **Martin Giurfa** (PC co-chair); **Ana Silva** (LOC); **Fabio Cortesi** (representing Justin Marshall for ICN 2018); **Suellen Holland** (Event Director for ICN 2018); **Joyce Lancaster** (Allen Press, via Skype).

**Aperitif:** Guayabita del Pinar La Occidental (gift of Peter Narins)

### **Announced Agenda**

- 1) Welcome, introductions (Peter Narins)
- 2) Membership report (Joyce Lancaster, participating via Skype)
- 3) Financial report (Karen Mesce)
- 4) Report on the 2016 ICN (Ana Silva)
- 5) Preparations for the 2018 ICN (Fabio Cortesi and Suellen Holland)
- 6) Proposals for the 2020 meeting (Catharine Rankin)
- 7) Nominations for ISN officers (Catharine Rankin)
- 8) Springer proposal (Peter Narins)
- 9) Other business

Peter Narins began by warmly welcoming the assembled group. All present introduced themselves. Joyce Lancaster, the Association Manager for the ISN at Allen Press, then presented her membership report via Skype. She reported that as of March 31, 2016, the ISN had 493 members. She noted that the membership of 246 of these members expires in 2017. Four efforts have been made to contact members for renewals using an enhanced e-mail approach. These efforts were judged to be highly successful based on analysis of how recipients responded to the e-mail.

*After brief discussion of the timing of requests for renewal, it was agreed that two more e-mailings should be made during this contract year, one approximately two weeks after ICN 2016 and the second in the middle of May.*

Joyce also provided information on the applicant pool for the various ISN awards.

Capranica Prize: five applicants, one award

Developing Neuroethology Award: ten applicants, four awards

Heiligenberg Student Travel Award: thirty applicants, seven awards

Konishi Research Award: four applicants, two awards

Young Investigator Award: eight applicants, four awards

ISN Fellows: two nominations, two awards

Joyce concluded her report with a recap of the business services provided by Allen Press to the ISN. These include managing the ISN bank account (US Bank, Lawrence, KS), management of the membership list, and enabling the ISN website to accept web enabled payments.

The Treasurer, Karen Mesce, then provided the financial report. She noted that the ISN ended 2015 with a loss of \$33,745.26. She explained that even a conservative financial portfolio may include poor performing funds, and that a non-profit organization such as the ISN cannot take losses as a tax write-off. After consultation with the Executive Committee, she sold a fund based in the energy sector at a loss. Subsequent tracking indicated that this action was timely, as continuing to hold this fund would have resulted in an even greater loss. She purchased a replacement fund, which is performing better. In her assessment, the rebounding U.S. stock market is helping maintain the solid financial position of the ISN. She noted that we are currently relatively cash rich. All present concurred with the Treasurer's management of ISN finances and her service to the ISN by writing timely checks and balancing the ISN checkbook. Karen noted that the ISN account is the repository for ICN funds that need to go to a U.S. account. She noted that the funds from the NSF award will go to Einstein College of Medicine for disbursement.

Ana Silva presented the report of the LOC for ICN 2016. She noted that she had a close and productive working arrangement with the PC co-chairs. She stated that the Latin American School of Neuroethology, all of the satellite meetings, and the Neuroethology of the Southern Cone conference had all been very successful. At the time she prepared her report, there were 495 attendees registered for ICN 2016, including 405 members. She showed a slide representing the excellent geographical distribution of congress attendees to make the points that the ISN has wide appeal and that the wise choice of locations makes it possible for different populations to attend each congress.

Ana also judged ICN 2016 to be a success in financial terms, despite minor mismatches between need and allocation. She stated that it likely would be May before accounts were settled. She also made the point that all registrations to ICN 2016 were subsidized, not just those of students.

Martin Giurfa and Jose Peña then gave the ICN program committee report. Martin and Jose had three specific suggestions for future congresses. They would like to keep the new tradition of a lecture by the President-Elect; they believe that one of the chairs of a previous ICN should be a member of the PC; and suggest that several PC members should come from outside of the ISN to provide useful feedback and guidance on the congress program.

Fabio Cortesi (standing in for Justin Marshall, who was unable to attend because of illness) then led a brief discussion of the plans for the 2018 congress in Brisbane. The overall message was "we are on track." The dates for the congress are July 16-20, 2018. The riverbank location is modern and attractive. The LOC contains a balanced representation of neuroethologists from across Oceania. The professional conference organizer employed by the LOC, Suellen Holland, then made a brief presentation. She noted that a substantial contribution toward the congress would be made by the City of Brisbane (estimated 30,000 Australian dollars), with more funds expected to support student travel and conference attendance grants. A comprehensive marketing plan has been developed, and the website is up and running. All of the information presented at this meeting regarding the Brisbane congress is already posted on the website (<http://icn2018.com/>). An Australian bank account has been established to handle congress funds.

The meeting was temporarily suspended for the President-Elect's lecture. The Council reconvened at 3 PM to conclude the meeting, minus the ICN 2018 representatives.

The first item of business after the meeting was re-convened was a discussion of the proposals for the 2020 congress. Peter Narins stated that two proposals will be presented to the membership, one from a group based in Cambridge, UK, and the second from a group based in Lisbon, Portugal. Past-President Alison Mercer then reported on nominations for the upcoming elections. Seven regular Council members and one Early Career Representative will be elected, as will a new President-Elect. The current Secretary, Susan Fahrbach, will run unopposed for her third (and final) term. The Treasurer is an appointed rather than an elected position, as the tax status of the ISN requires this position to be held by a U.S. resident familiar with the U.S. tax code. Karen Mesce has agreed to continue to serve the ISN in this capacity.

Peter Narins introduced a proposal from Springer-Verlag. The goal as stated by Springer-Verlag is a closer relationship between the ISN and Journal of Comparative Physiology A.

*There was a general discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of such an affiliation. The new President will tackle this issue with the assistance of the Executive Committee and the ISN Council.*

Peter Narins then read a letter from the Chair of the SICB Division of Neurobiology, Paul Moore, inviting ISN to affiliate. The benefit would be that ISN members could register at the members' rate for SICB meetings and vice versa.

*There was a general discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of such an affiliation. The Secretary volunteered to collect information share that information with Council so that it could make an informed decision regarding affiliation.*

*A discussion of the guidelines for applicants for ISN Awards followed. A key question is whether an individual should be allowed to apply for more than one award per congress cycle. Possible changes to the guidelines will be considered by the Executive Committee and the ISN Council in the near future.*

*A discussion about ISN participation in the Animal Behavior annual meeting. It was noted that the new leadership of the Animal Behavior Society is appreciative of the strong overlap between animal behavior and neuroethology. It was noted that one possibility is to invite a member of the Animal Behavior Society to participate in the Presidential Symposium in Brisbane.*

*Possible alternatives to the current management company were discussed. The President will follow up on these discussions and provide information to the Executive Committee and the ISN Council on our options.*

After a call for Other Business went unanswered, the meeting was concluded.