

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing and other Committees,
International Society for Neuroethology (ISN)**

Location: University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

Date: August 7, 2012; convened during the Tenth International Congress of Neuroethology (ICN)

In attendance: Members of the 2012 Executive Committee, ISN Council, Chairs of the ICN 2011-2012 Program Committee (Hans-Joachim Pflüger and Andrea Simmons), Chair of the 2011-2012 Local Organizing Committee (Art Popper), Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2014 ICN in Sapporo (Yoshitaka Oka), Linda Hardwick (Allen Press)

Secretary: Karen Mesce

[Action notes appearing in italics added by AM]

Welcome and Introductions (Alison Mercer)

Greetings and opening remarks were made by the incoming ISN President, Alison Mercer (NZ), who expressed her enthusiasm about taking on her role as new President. Introductions around the table were made.

Alison acknowledged with thanks a report from the *ad hoc* committee on Symposia Organization chaired by Alan Roberts. The report raises a number of issues for discussion and will be considered by Council further in the coming year. *[Proposals forwarded to Heather Eisthen and Masashi Kawasaki (Program Co-Chairs for ICN2014) for their information. Yoshi Oka, Chair of the LOC for ICN2014, was a member of the ad hoc committee and contributed to the preparation of the report. Key points should be incorporated into a document outlining tips on how to run an ISN Congress].*

Membership report (Linda Hardwick)

Linda Hardwick communicated that dues-paying ISN membership was up. The number of members totals 587 as of 2012. Because of an increase in 2-year memberships, the 2013 role-over numbers (occurs in Oct 2012) will be 344 members. The discount rate for a 2-yr membership has helped increase member numbers; 25% of this number consists of student membership.

Council questioned Linda about the logistics of how ISN members are kept abreast of their membership status. Linda commented that paper-renewal reminders are not sent out to members. Active members, however, do receive email notification that they need to renew their membership. Currently, email renewal notices are sent out to past members even after a 3-year lapse of membership; this grace membership was deemed valuable as it will increase the chance that former ISN members will continue with their ties to ISN.

Financial Report (Fred Delcomyn)

Fred Delcomyn (2010-2012 Treasurer) presented the Annual Financial Reports for 2010 and 2011. The total ISN asset value was \$478,983.68 for 2010 and \$473,508.98

for 2011. The ISN is in good fiscal health. Fred mentioned that funds contributed to or spent from a restricted fund (i.e., Bullock; Heiligenberg; DNF) need to be tracked specifically to those funds. The Capranica (Prize) endowment was spent down prior to ISN's willingness to continue awarding the Prize. The Prize will be a cash amount that will come out of the ISN reserves. Donations to the ISN General Fund or for general student support can be distributed to the Heiligenberg Student Travel Award Fund. Brief discussion was focused on how a lectureship can be established. It was mentioned that there are currently no rules for the threshold dollar amount needed to establish a lectureship. A comment was made that for the 2010 ICN, \$5,170.37 was spent on travel for plenary speakers. A question was raised about what the 2012 ICN plenary speakers received. They all received free registration, which essentially appears as "invisible" itemizations.

Report on 2012 meeting (Art Popper, Andrea Simmons, Jochen Pflueger)

Art Popper (Chair of the ICN Local Organizing Committee) reported on the status of the ICN at the University of Maryland. Art communicated that there were 561 attendees at the ICN. As a local organizer, Art mentioned that the associated satellite meetings were not easy to manage and that they were just thrown in, which is not always 'fair' for the organizers. Art made special mention of Sandra Blumenrath (Res Associate, University of Maryland) for greatly helping with the logistics of the ICN. Art mentioned that funds were obtained from the following agencies: NIH (\$10k), NSF (\$15k), Air Force (\$35k), University of MD (\$35k). Art mentioned that he personally thought that the Frontiers' site was not user friendly. He estimated that the budget for the meeting was around \$250k. Items to think about for future ICNs include: advertising for vendors; a better place to post abstracts; need for a conference bureau; an on-site bureau; detailed procedures of how to run the ICNs, which would be pasted on to future organizers.

Preparations for ICN2014 (Yoshi Oka)

Next, Yoshitaka (Yoshi) Oka (Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2014 ICN in Sapporo, Japan) presented a status report on preparations being made for the 2014 ICN in Sapporo. Yoshi provided attendees with hard copies of a 5-page outline containing power point images, which describe plans for the ICN (Mesce has additional copies if needed). With approval of Council, plans are underway to hold the 2014 ICN in partnership with the Japanese Society for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (JSCPb). Dates of the meeting are Monday July 28-Aug 2 (Sat), and the meeting will be held at the Sapporo Convention Center. Members of the JSCPb will be granted the ISN member rate for attendance at the 2014 ICN. All ICN registration fees, however, will go directly into ISN accounts. A joint title reflecting the ICN and the JSCPb will be advertised. *[Through discussions between Council and the Local Organizing Committees for the 11th International Congress of Neuroethology and the 36th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (JSCPb) it was decided to refer to the 2014 Congress as "2014 ICN / JSCPb"]*. Posters presented by JSCPb members will be marked with a logo of JSCPb. Members of the JSCPb will have their abstracts published in their Society's journal. On the date of July 28, 2014, the venue will differ for ISN and JSCPb members. Financial support will be available through the Science Council of Japan, Hokkaido University, Tourism Organizations, and the Hokkaido Prefecture. One symposium or lecture will likely be sponsored by both Societies.

Andrea Simmons (Co-chair of the 2012 ICN Program Committee) provided some insights and reflections about the running of the ICN Program Committee. She mentioned that there needs to be a dialogue about the optimal number of members on this committee and members need to participate fully if they agree to participate.

Proposals for the 2016 ICN

Alison noted that there were three strong proposals to host the 2016 Congress. There was strong support voiced for holding the meeting in South America. Dates for the 2016 ICN in Uruguay were discussed as the local organizers had suggested that a meeting in March would enable attendees to enjoy summer weather. Members voiced the pros and cons of a date that departed from the typical July-Sept dates, but no formal consensus was reached. *[In the September elections, the proposal to hold ICN2016 in Uruguay received majority support from ISN members. As a result of subsequent discussions between the Executive Committee, members of Council and the ICN2016 hosts, Ana Silva and José Peña, it has been resolved to hold the 2016 Congress in Montevideo from March 29 though April 3, 2016].*

Discussion of nominations for Officers

A full slate of candidates has been prepared. The names of Narins and Margoliash were mentioned as the nominees for President-elect, and Roberts and Fahrback for ISN Secretary. ISN Treasurer is now appointed by ISN Council. *[Election results were published in April Newsletter. Karen Mesce appointed by the EC to the position of Treasurer].*

Report from Paul Katz

Paul Katz (Past ISN President) commented on the benefits of having the ICN every two years and discussed ways to strengthen the ISN. He mentioned that the ISN needs to be involved in formalizing Neuroethology courses and their advertising. Good use of the funds for the Bullock lectureship in Neuroethology might be for a lecture at the Gordon Conference during ICN off years. The ISN will benefit from increased use of social media; cite-u-like and use of Google-docs. The newly elected secretary might want to help maintain the new web site. More involvement in Scholarpedia was discussed as a way to highlight the importance of Neuroethology.

Discussion surfaced that it would be a great idea to have a public lecture at one of the future ICN meetings to engage the local community and showcase the importance of Neuroethology.

It was discussed that Council have a student representative, which met with Council approval. The ISN by-laws need to be amended to reflect the inclusion of a student representative. *[In the September elections 83.6% of those who voted were in favor of having a PhD student or Postdoctoral representative on Council].*

Alison mentioned that the ISN website was much improved and encouraged us all to contribute educational materials to it.

Members of Council that would be rotating off were thanked for all of their important service.

The meeting was adjourned.