



OFFICERS

The World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereoecephalotomy

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WSSFN website: www.wssfn.org

WSSFN Board of Directors Meeting Athens, Greece September 24, 2010

Present: Takaomi Taira, MD, PhD, Giovanni Broggi, MD, Terry Coyne, MD, Chris Honey, MD, Marwan Hariz, MD, PhD, Joachim Krauss, MD, PhD, Bart Nuttin, MD, PhD, Roberto Spiegelmann, MD, Jean Regis, MD, David Roberts, MD, Bomun Sun, MD, Jurgen Voges, MD, Melody Dian.

Other leadership members who were unable to attend the meeting sent their regrets.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Taira at approximately 13:00.

1. Interim Meeting 2011

Dr. Taira shared information from a report sent by the meeting chairman, Dr. Roger Melvill. The Interim Meeting will be held November 20-23, 2011 in Cape Town South Africa. Dr. Melvill's local planning committee includes Dr. Graham Fieggen, Dr. Sally Rothemeyer and meeting organizer, Sue McGinnis. At this time the meeting venue is the BOE Conference Centre in downtown Cape Town. However, there is some concern about availability of hotels in that area due to a large conference on Climate Change which may impact the site selection. The organizer is working on any possible changes.

A list of potential speakers was shared. Those in attendance at the Board Meeting felt some names were left off the list since they had indicated they had responded to e-mails requesting their interest level and topics they may present. They also felt it important that the officers be part of the program and planning.

In his report, Dr. Melvill had noted that they must be sensitive to the needs of African neurosurgeons and would also like the meeting to act as an encouragement to the country's neurosurgeons. The suggested topics from the planners at this time include Epilepsy, Movement Disorders, Spasticity and Pain. Although mentioned, Radiosurgery and Psychosurgery did not have primary importance for topic selection.

Action items: Melody will send the notes from Dr. Melvill's meeting to the leadership. Also she will resend the leadership the table of speakers and topics that were put together from leadership's responses.

2. Quadrennial Meeting 2013

Dr. Taira indicated that the 2013 Quadrennial Meeting will be held at the Hotel Nikko in Tokyo May 27-30, 2013. Since there is still two and one-half years until the meeting, there is ample planning time. Focus at this time is for any assistance that can be provided for the Interim Meeting.

3. Journal Subscription

There was an informative discussion led by Dr. Krauss and Dr. Nuttin about the contract arrangements with Karger for reduction in journal costs. Currently the negotiations are with ESSFN. Briefly, the cost of online journal access will be 29 Euros per paying member. Dr. Nuttin, as ESSFN Treasurer, will send the paid membership list to Karger yearly so the members may receive their online journal access codes. Only paying members will have the ability to request a printed version at the cost of 120 Euros. This arrangement with Karger will be reevaluated in April 2011 with the goal of 200 paying members. If the goal is met, then WSSFN and ASSFN will have the opportunity to discuss similar arrangements with Karger.

Dr. Nuttin reported the method that ESSFN has for collecting membership dues and tracking members using a computer program that he accesses. The system also has a secured payment system through PayPal. He indicated that if we would like further information, he would be available to discuss the program and process.

4. Membership and Outreach Status

It was reported that there has been a steady increase in membership. Currently the combined ASSFN and WSSFN memberships are 481 total members. WSSFN membership accounts for 129 of this total. The WSSFN increase reflects the success of the Toronto meeting and also the effort to become more visible at appropriate meetings. The Outreach Program however still has a number of openings despite the complimentary membership. There was some discussion as to whether the categories of low/low-middle income versus developing country delineation should be revisited. It appeared that the group felt that further contact with associations within the current list of countries might be helpful in spreading the word about the program. Also it was suggested that contact be made with WFNS to see if they might have access to information about neurosurgeons in the countries listed to also help spread the word.

Action Item: Melody to research associations and also contact WFNS membership department for information.

5. Survey Updates

Dr. Taira reported on 3 recent surveys in which WSSFN had provided administrative assistance. Dr. Schechtmann, Dr. Bernstein and Dr. Richter. Dr. Schechtmann's survey focused on current practices of stereotactic surgery for movement disorders. Dr. Bernstein's survey focused on ethics in psychiatric neurosurgery and Dr. Richter's survey focused on training for residents in functional neurosurgery. A question arose as to whether there would be further follow-up from Dr. Richter's survey on resident training. Comments were made from the group regarding the difficulty of any organization establishing itself as a licensing group with a set of training standards. Dr. Bernstein will be submitting a report to the journal and Dr. Richter has a report of his findings in the WSSFN fall newsletter.

6. Dr. Sun Shanghai Meeting Report

Dr. Sun reported that there will be a meeting March 9-10, 2011 in Shanghai and would like the WSSFN to lend its name to the meeting. Dr. Taira noted that we would be pleased to do this but would be unable to provide monetary support. One of Dr. Sun's goals is to have a round table or workshop to discuss the surgical treatment of psychological disorders with the hope of developing guidelines.

7. New Initiatives: Young Neurosurgeon Award

A new initiative providing a modest monetary award to a neurosurgeon in honor of the late Dr. Ohye and Dr. Tsubokawa was discussed by the leadership who felt this was an excellent idea. It was recommended that two awards be given of perhaps \$2500 each. These award would be announced at the next quadrennial meeting. Some ways of making the information available were discussed and included posting on the web site, having applications and general information at the future exhibit tables and having other societies post on their web site. There also was a possibility of renaming the award every four years to provide an opportunity to honor other distinguished leaders in the society. Dr. Krauss and Dr. Oh will be developing criteria for the award and sharing with the leadership for comments.

Action Item: Dr. Krauss and Dr. Oh to develop and share criteria and guidelines with the leadership.

8. Newsletter

Dr. Taira announced that Dr. Oh had resigned from his position as editor of the newsletter. His efforts were acknowledged and appreciated by the group. Dr. Eric Richter will be the new editor with assistance from Dr. Toda and Dr. Tomycz.

9. Web Site suggestions:

No new suggestions were made for changes to the web site.

10. Financial Report:

The group agreed that the society finances were strong. A question was raised as to whether there was enough money available to cover costs if one of the WSSFN meetings had to be cancelled or otherwise lost funds. The committee indicated that in the case of cancellation, contract negotiations could protect the society. Dr. Taira had stated that meetings should be planned with budgeting for ample support from sponsors and also with keeping costs modest.

11. Other Business:

There was no other new business.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the WSSFN Interim Meeting in November 2011 in Cape Town.

The meeting concluded at approximately 14:00.