



The World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereoecephalotomy

**WSSFN Board of Director's Meeting
ESSFN Congress
Convention Center
Maastricht Netherlands
September 19, 2014**

Present: Tipu Aziz, Jocelyn Bloch, Giovanni Broggi, Terry Coyne, Jairo Espinoza, Clement Hamani, Mojgan Hodaie, Christopher Honey, Zelma Kiss, Joachim Krauss, Joseph Neimat, Bart Nuttin, Jean Regis, David Roberts, Rick Schuurman, Vladimir Shabalov, Roberto Spiegelmann, Bomin Sun, Osvaldo Vilela-Filho; and Melody Dian

1. Welcome: Dr. Krauss opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance for their participation.

2. Review of membership: WSSFN membership is at 758. This includes 110 individual WSSFN members of which 32 are in the Outreach Program as well as 354 ASSFN and 294 ESSFN members. The contract with Karger has been in place since February of this year for individual WSSFN members. There is a special annual bulk fee of 20 Euros for 60 individual WSSFN members. Membership fees for this group have been reduced to \$150 for active members. ESSFN has a similar arrangement with Karger except their bulk rate is based on 200 members yearly. ASSFN also has a similar contract. The arrangement with Karger allows each member online access to the journal and the ability to purchase a printed version of the journal for a greatly reduced fee of \$172 per year. Dr. Krauss encouraged other international societies to join WSSFN and work with Karger on the package. Dr. Vilela said he would discuss this with the leadership at the November meeting. There are approximately 200 SLANFE members and also the Brazilian Society may also be approached. Dr. Sun was interested in a possible reduced rate based on a contract using a lower number of members in China. Dr. Krauss said that a lower rate would not be possible and perhaps some members could come through the Outreach Program. The Outreach Program allows 50 neurosurgeons in developing countries a one year membership in WSSFN including complimentary online access to the journal. AASFN, SLANFE and the Japanese Society will continue to explore the relationship, but there are still some issues to be solved and some groups do not have a membership fee currently and may need further encouragement to join WSSFN.

3. Review of finances: A review of the WSSFN finances indicated a strong positive balance in the account. This includes membership income, the profit from the Tokyo meeting, a new grant from Medtronic for the MDS PPN DBS Working Group in collaboration with WSSFN and the 3 CD's in the Bank of Montreal. Expenses have been reasonable so the balance remains stable.

4. WSSFN Interim Meeting update: Dr. Hodaie presented a summary of the WSSFN Interim meeting to be held in September 3-6, 2015 in Mumbai, India. The local chairman is Paresch Doshi and he has a strong scientific committee all of whom have been working hard towards a successful meeting. The web site is www.wssfn2015.org and has detailed information including most of the program, speakers and registration, and general information. Dr. Hodaie reviewed those on the committee, the structure of the program which will consist of 2 days of workshops, an international day which will be a milestone in the possible move to a biannual WSSFN congress and the last day's program with the Indian Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Society. There will be 12 workshops during the first two days with various topics and only 2 topics will be repeated which will then provide a broad range for attendees' selections.

There has been an excellent response from those invited to speak, approximately 80% of the program is filled.

There were several discussion points:

Proposed travel grants: It was suggested that perhaps 16 grants be provided; 8 outside of Asia would receive \$2000 each; 8 in Asia would receive \$1000 each. There would be an application process which would include mandatory abstract submission and approval by a committee. Grants would be paid on-site only.

A call for abstracts should be sent prior to the end of the year. Advertising is important including journal ad, web site information on WSSFN, the meeting home site, and websites of ASSFN, ESSFN and others that might be appropriate. The Ambassador Program will also be useful. There was an excellent response and Dr. Doshi will be sending information to those who agreed to participate encouraging them to promote the meeting.

The abstracts are to be published online through Karger. A price has been negotiated already similar to ESSFN policies.

The major aim of the Interim meeting is teaching and the workshops have been developed with this in mind.

Fund raising: Dr. Neimat presented the fund raising status. Dr. Doshi has been proactive in obtaining funding with several sponsors already committing to various levels of grants. The preliminary budget is healthy. An attendance of 300 would be needed from fund raising. Boston Scientific at this time is the largest funder. Also at this time, approximately \$40,000 is still needed to make the listed goal. Anything beyond that amount would be a benefit for the Society to support future education. Dr. Neimat also mentioned that although Medtronic has agreed to provide some funding, He will be contacting them for additional funds which they may give towards specific activities such as the faculty dinner, lunch support or an additional workshop. It was decided that the most effective fund raising would be for Dr. Doshi to approach and manage companies from India and Dr. Neimat would do the same for international companies thereby avoiding confusion among the companies.

5. Discussion about the change in leadership commitment: Dr. Krauss led this discussion. The idea had been initiated earlier in the year. Since the Board has expanded to 32 members, a two year versus 4 year term of office would allow a broader outreach for officer leadership among the Board members and allow more countries to be represented. The change would take place after 2017 with the incoming officers. Board members would still remain for 4 years. Some comments were that 4 years allows time to be most effective in the positions since it does take time to learn the various details of the society and to move any initiatives forward. Also, the meeting time structure and focus would have to be changed.

Review of how this would effect on the Interim and Quadrennial meeting scheduling was then discussed. It was commented that as the science has grown it has become easier to develop a biennial meeting. Combining an international day with an interim meeting may be a solution to the meeting development. Another suggestion was to keep the Interim meeting regional so that the year between the major meeting a country/society holds a much smaller regional meeting or workshop. It was determined that such an important topic needs further discussion and resolution so this will be discussed at the WSSFN Interim meeting in Mumbai.

6. Update on the MDS PPN DBS Working Group in collaboration with WSSFN: Dr. Krauss mentioned that negotiations with MDS were successful in joining of the two societies for this activity. The Medtronic grant was approved which will be used for further activities of the group including meetings and publications in preparation for a study protocol. Further meeting dates and activities will be forthcoming.

7. Update on any potential seed money from WSSFN for research grant. Dr. Schulder, although unable to attend, had provided a description and possible research grant amounts. Dr. Lozano is the chairman of the Scientific committee and he and Dr. Schulder will be working on the details to provide to the Board at a later time. Amounts to be specified. Once the full criteria is developed and approved, a request for application will be sent to all members

8. Committee updates as available:

- **Psychiatry:** Dr. Nuttin had met with the committee at the ESSFN Congress. The committee has published a *Consensus on Guidelines for Neurosurgery in Psychiatric Disorders* in JNNP and it is being translated into Chinese and Japanese already with other languages to follow. The committee is sharing work on a new publication so there will be continued meetings. He felt there was an interesting and valuable discussion among the committee members where each member discussed what trials there are currently involved with and then what work was done by each of them outside of trials. He also mentioned that there was discussion about a patient registry, but that was a rather complicated project and would need further review.
- **Journal:** Dr. Roberts thanked Dr. Krauss for his work in increasing members and negotiating with Mr. Nold at Karger which has kept the overall costs down. Dr. Roberts gave an interesting overview of the impact of the journal. Included was information on origination of manuscripts: 1/3 from Europe, 1/3 from North America and 1/3 from Asia and other countries. He mentioned that clinical studies were the largest number of manuscripts submitted; case reports were being discouraged and topic reviews are being encouraged. Dr. Roberts also said that Karger is working more online to keep pace with technology.
- **Website :** Dr. Hamani provided an update on a new initiative for the web site. Under the Clinical tab there will be 3 drop down sub-headings: “ How I Do It; Pearls in Functional Neurosurgery and Controversies in Functional Neurosurgery.” He has asked and will continue to ask for materials to place in these areas to keep the information interesting. An email blast announcing this new initiative will be sent to all members. Other general updating of the web site will be taking place in the near future.
- **Newsletter:** Dr. Richter, although unable to attend, did ask that the Board be aware that he will be working towards the next issue sometime in February 2015. The spring newsletter had a very interesting article provided by Dr. Spiegelmann on his experiences in Niger. Comments were made that more of this type of article which shares personal experiences would be a good addition to the newsletter and increase involvement of the leadership and members.

9. Other items; Dr. Kiss asked if there was any information that could be shared with new officers and Board members explaining their responsibilities and role in the Society. It was mentioned that there is helpful information in the by-laws, but if further details are needed perhaps this could be developed. The next Board meeting will be held at the WSSFN Interim meeting in Mumbai. Additional conference calls of committees may be scheduled prior to the next Board meeting.

10. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned with thanks to all in attendance.