



# The World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereocencephalotomy

**WSSFN  
Minutes  
Board of Director's Meeting  
Mumbai, India  
September 4, 2015**

**Attending:** Patric Blomstedt; Terry Coyne, Jin Woo Chang; Paresh Doshi; Clement Hamani; Chris Honey; Mojgan Hodaie; Joachim Krauss; Joseph Neimat; Bart Nuttin; Fabian Piedimonte; Erich Richter; David Roberts; Jason Schwalb; Michael Schulder; Konstantin Slavin; Byung Chul Son; Takaomi Taira; Hiroki Toda; Osvaldo Vilela Filho and Melody Dian via phone

**1. Welcome:** Dr. Krauss welcomed and thanked the group for attending the meeting. He and the Board also warmly thanked Dr. Doshi for all his hard work towards the success of the Interim meeting.

**2. Review of membership and finances (Dr. Chang):** Membership information was highlighted. The number listed on the membership handout was 111 individual WSSFN members, 240 ESSFN members and 375 ASSFN members. Dr. Krauss mentioned that the ESSFN membership was incorrect so with the adjustment (ESSFN members 340), the total figure at this time for all WSSFN members is 826. The overall WSSFN membership growth in the past years has been mainly due to negotiation with ESSFN, moving from individual members to society membership giving a much stronger base.

It was also mentioned that the finances are strong with a total assets of \$689,408, which includes the funds in the regular society account and the three CD's at the Bank of Montreal. Profit from meeting was discussed. Dr. Doshi is still working on the income and expenses. We will know better after the meeting income and expenses are finalized.

**3. WSSFN Mutual benefit plan with other societies (Dr. Krauss)** Some progress has been made with other societies joining WSSFN. There have been political and financial issues to deal with which have caused delays. Some of the societies that have been approached by Dr. Krauss do not have to pay membership fees so this has impacted negotiations. Dr. Krauss has worked out a possible agreement with Karger so that societies can pay in bulk 29 Euros for one-half of their membership per year. (eg if there are 100 members the society would pay for 50 members x 29 Euros). This would make the society membership affordable. A suggestion was made that perhaps the corresponding societies could find a sponsor to cover that cost on an ongoing basis. Along with WSSFN membership benefits, individuals would receive complimentary online access to the journal.

**Korea (Dr. Chang)** The Korean society is supportive. Dr. Krauss has asked for Dr. Chang to send an email to him so he can prepare a formal letter/contract.

**Japan (Dr. Taira)** The Japanese Stereotactic Society as a whole may not be as interested in membership. They have a large membership of about 500 and the cost has been a factor in discussions. The members feel that they can access journals through the university libraries so that does not have as much appeal. There has been discussion of the other benefits such as reduced attendance fees at meetings and the ability to be a part and voice in a larger society (WSSFN). Dr. Taira asked that Dr. Krauss write a letter of invitation to the JSSFN President with 2 options: first that all members become part of WSSFN and second that the 30 Board members of JSSFN become members.

**SLANFE and Brazil (Dr. Vilela)** Dr. Vilela continues working on the process.

**India (Dr. Doshi)** It was announced shortly after the Board meeting that the members of the Indian Stereotactic Society during their board meeting decided to join WSSFN under the umbrella of the Mutual benefit plan.

As an important incentive, a suggestion was made that presidents of the other society would become part of the WSSFN leadership giving them additional visibility and a voice in global activities.

**4. PPN DBS Working group Update (Dr. Krauss)** A meeting was held in December. A collaborative committee (WSSFN and Movement Disorders Society) of 3 neurosurgeons and 3 neurologists is working on four manuscripts to be published as a supplement in Movement Disorders (or alternatively in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery) journal. Funds were made available through a grant from Medtronic. There has also been some discussion of a study in the future. This is the first initiative between the Movement Disorders Society and WSSFN.

#### **5. Committee Updates:**

**Research (Dr. Lozano)** Dr. Lozano was not available for the Board meeting so Dr. Krauss presented information to the Board. A project has been planned in order to produce a manuscript (*Unmet Needs in Functional Neurosurgery*) with about ten to twelve important topics prepared by both assigned WSSFN key leaders and by neuroscientists working in the field. The project had been approved the day before during the WSSFN officers' meeting. It would be a WSSFN venture and there would be an estimated cost of \$20,000 to cover the expenses for a meeting to discuss the contributions and finalize the manuscript. The Board members would receive a draft for comments. The aim is to have a

document, with a high priority in research, to be published in a journal such as LANCET Neurology or similar. Finally, the project is consented by the board.

Dr. Schulder discussed establishing smaller research grant funding for promising activities. The grants would provide seed money and would not be meant to fund an ongoing project. A suggestion of \$5000 per year for 2 grants was made. The process would require application and review by committee. There will be more discussion including the criteria and mechanisms.

**Psychiatric Neurosurgery (Dr. Nuttin)** The Committee for Neurosurgery for Psychiatric Disorders met Friday morning. The guidelines that were published in JNNP can now be read starting from the WSSFN website. The paper has been translated into Japanese and this translation has been approved by the Japanese Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. The text has been forwarded to JNNP. The Chinese translation is made, but still is in the process of approval. The Committee awaits a translation into Spanish. Under the leadership of Marwan Hariz and Veerle Visser-Vandewalle the literature on lesion surgery for psychiatric disorders is being reviewed. Keith Matthews will address a study on target versus outcome.

**Education (Dr. Krauss)** Dr. Krauss would like to align with other societies such as ESSFN and ASSFN for education and training. ESSFN already has training programs in place and it could be possible to join in some efforts. Unfortunately, efforts to collaborate with WSNF have been frustrating. Further developments will be provided in the future.

**Industrial Relations (Dr. Neimat)** Fund raising for the Interim meeting was very successful. Dr. Neimat stated that Dr. Doshi was instrumental in obtaining the majority of funds from sponsors with the approximate total of 23 million Rupees (approximately \$346,290 USD). Overall sponsorship is becoming more difficult to obtain so there had to be some creativity in working with the sponsors.

## **6. Changing of the quadrennial meeting to a biennial meeting after 2017.**

Comments were made that originally when the society was initiated, it made better sense to hold the society meeting every four years. The membership was small, the outreach was different and the scientific research opportunities were a bit more limited. With the growth of the society especially in the recent years, the opportunity to present new materials, to provide the chance for a larger base to present their research in abstracts, and to provide education to those in this important specialty now lends itself to holding a meeting every two years rather than every four years. It was suggested that the meeting does not necessarily have to be in the country of the president and location could be selected for the greatest interest and need.

Questions were asked about the future of the Interim meeting. It was suggested that the Interim meeting be regional, smaller, and with an emphasis on what is important to the neurosurgeons in that particular country. Another option was that at the biennial meeting a day or so be set aside with a focus on education in specific topics. A final decision will be made regarding the change at the 2017 meeting in Berlin.

**7. Changing of the leadership from 4 year to 2 year term** Dr. Schulder opened the discussion commenting that when the society was small it made sense to have the officers hold their position for 4 years. Now 4 years is too long of a commitment given the fast pace of recent developments and the increasing number of members of the society. The 2 year term may encourage some younger neurosurgeons to become involved knowing that if they chose to do so, they could move into leadership positions a bit more quickly. As a possibility, officers would hold the position for 2 years, directors would rotate allowing new members to come aboard. Currently he expressed that there is continuity, but not enough change. Board membership, it was noted, should not just be an honorary position but members should be involved in some aspect of the society. Currently there are ill-defined positions such as Continental VP's. It was suggested that presidents of societies fill these positions. There will have to be work done on the by-laws once the appropriate decisions are made

**8. By-law revisions (Dr. Chang)** Dr. Chang had prepared by-laws with some key changes that would update important points after the Board meeting (eg change of 4 year to 2 year commitments and some general adjustment in language) He had researched other societies by-laws for comparison. He also pointed out that there were further adjustments that should be discussed and presented, but it may be wise to have any extensive revisions worked on more gradually either prior to the 2017 meeting and voted on by the membership, or as ongoing efforts by the new leadership. More time will have to be devoted to the more extensive changes based on recommendations and approval.

In order for the by-laws to be changed, voting would have to take place. One method for voting could be electronically which has worked well for ASSFN.

**9. Criteria for honorary membership and what does that individual get as a retired member (eg Dr. Roger Melvill who is retiring and asked to be removed from membership) and other membership questions (Dr. Schwalb)** This specific discussion was delayed.

Dr. Schwalb has been working on membership for a number of years. Dr. Krauss requested that he become the official Chairman of the Membership committee and suggested that he ask 2-3 others from the Board to work with him. The membership information is dated and needs to better represent the society. The type of membership, the application process, the requirements to become an individual member all need to

be reviewed and updated. Dr. Schwalb will liaison with Dr. Chang as to the potential by-law changes.

**10. Journal Report (Dr. Roberts)** Dr. Roberts stated that the new Impact Factor (for 2014) is 2.019 which is a substantial increase. This was met by appreciation from the Board members. Dr. Roberts also stated that the manuscript submission rate is climbing, with broad geographic representation. The acceptance rate for manuscripts in 2014 was 41%. He stated that overall the health of the journal is strong.

**11. WSSFN Berlin 2017:** Dr. Krauss said that plans have started for the 2017 meeting to be held in Berlin at the end of June 2017. He asked that the leadership send dates of major meetings so there is as little conflict as possible. The local organizing group has been selected. They organized the ESSFN meeting in The Netherlands and were very efficient.

**12. Updates on new or ongoing initiatives:** No additional initiatives were discussed.

**13. Summary of Mumbai congress (Drs. Doshi, Hodaie)** The meeting structure was inventive with two days of workshops and an international day. Dr. Hodaie said a great deal was learned particularly in the use of coordinators and moderators especially for the workshops. There were approximately 100 faculty, a healthy number of abstract submissions and presentations, with approximately 84 total for the oral and flash presentations. Posters were placed in an electronic format with several still placed on poster boards. All approved abstracts were placed in the meeting program book. There were 18 travel grants awarded of \$2000 and \$1000 each depending on geographic location. Registration was approximately 400 with 149 from India. Sponsorship and exhibitors participation were also solid. The officers and board members were very complimentary and applauded Dr. Doshi and Dr. Hodaie's successful efforts.

**14. Other items:** There were no additional discussion items so the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm