



The World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery

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Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereoecephalotomy

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WSSFN website: www.wssfn.org

WSSFN Meeting Conference Call April 22, 2010

Present: Takaomi Taira, MD, PhD, Michael Schulder, MD, Andres Lozano, MD, PhD, Roger Melvill, MD, Sally Rothemeyer, MD, Marwan Hariz, MD, PhD and Melody Dian

Regrets: Jin Woo Chang, MD, PhD, Graham Fieggen, MD, Joachim Krauss, MD

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Taira at approximately 7:30 am EST.

A. Interim Meeting

1. Date and Location:

Dr. Melvill indicated that the Vineyard Hotel and Spa was the first choice for the meeting location. It is close to the university, hospital, and in a very pleasant and accessible area. The hotel also is competitive in pricing. The second possibility was the Crystal Hotel but management did not seem to be as interested in negotiating the best prices and were not very responsive to Dr. Melvill's requests. The date that is available at the Vineyard is November 20-23, 2011. The meeting could start with a welcome reception Sunday, November 20 with program commencing Monday and completing sometime on Wednesday.

Action items: The Vineyard Hotel is to be contacted by Melody and the contract developed. The contract will be reviewed and signed by Dr. Melvill. Should a deposit be required with the signed contract, the funds can be sent from the US account if a local account has not been established at that time.

2. Potential Delegates (marketing outreach):

Dr. Melvill indicated there was a consensus from the Cape Town planning group that a workshop format inviting only African delegates may not provide enough attendance to make the meeting financially viable. Also, companies that may be interested in providing support might look at this meeting as more of a regional effort and therefore not offer adequate support. The group continued the discussion about extending reach to a more global target audience and still encourage local physician attendance. Included would be South Africa, the remainder of the African countries as well as the Middle East and parts of Europe through the PanArab Neurosurgical Society and the Societe de Neurochirurgie de langue francaise Both neurologist and pain doctors might also be invited. The original expectation of attendance was approximately 50-70 but the group determined that perhaps 100 to 200 attendees might be possible.

Dr. Melvill also indicated that they would like to hire a local meeting organizer, Sue McGinnis, who has worked with Dr. Fieggen in the past on meeting development. Many of the meeting details including marketing will be part of the organizer's commitment.

Action item: Cape Town group to contract with Sue McGinnis. Once contracted, Melody to connect with Sue to review any details that she may need.

3. Program: Dr. Taira had shared the program from the Shanghai meeting. Since the Cape Town program has now expanded from a workshop format to a general meeting with both scientific and educational topics, this template should be valuable. Topics that had been discussed with the group in the past could include non-stereotactic surgery for epilepsy, spasticity, dystonia, as well as stereotactic lesion surgery for movement disorders, psychiatric illnesses and chronic pain. Also, there was a continued interest in having a call for abstracts. Earlier suggestions had been abstracts and presentations focusing on what is being done in the presenter's country for conditions and illnesses relating to the meeting topic rather than only on new scientific and research developments. With this in mind, funding for those attending the meeting and presenting their paper might be considered from their own institution.

Action item: Dr. Melvill and Dr. Taira were to work on the specifics of the meeting program and once a draft was developed, share for comments from the group.

4. Possible Speakers: There was no definitive discussion about who to invite to speak. This will unfold as the program is developed.

5. Budget: An earlier budget template had been distributed based on attendance of 50 paid delegates, \$50,000 in industry or other vendor support and \$30,000 seed funding from WSSFN. It was suggested that new templates be developed using 100 and 200 attendees. The registration fee of \$350 seemed reasonable, but needs to be re-visited once the costs are more accurate. A sliding scale was suggested using the World Bank criteria for developing countries as a guide for registration fees. Also, it was suggested that residents and fellows could attend for no fee.

Action item: Melody will develop budgets based on 100 and 200 attendees and disseminate to the group.

6. Financial Support for Some Neurosurgeons (speakers): It was determined that any support for speakers would be reviewed after the meeting and only if there was a comfortable profit.

7. Fund Raising (grants, sponsors and exhibitors) There have been discussions with several companies about support for the meeting. These include Medtronics, Elekta, Integra and Cyberonics. Cyberonics had committed via e-mail to a \$10,000 sponsorship. The group agreed that it is very important to have the meeting program in place so that it can be used to encourage sponsor support.

8. Meeting Announcement Flyer: Unfortunately Dr. Melvill's phone connection was broken so there was no further discussion. He was contacted via e-mail to ask about producing a flyer to use as a marketing tool and to see if he needed further information.

B. WSSFN Business Items:

1. Residency Training Project: There was discussion about the residency training project Dr. Eric Richter has been interested in developing. He was been reviewing various materials sent to him from committees that had developed this type of activity. He also had sent a survey to program directors for information gathering purposes. The officers were appreciative of his interest and efforts, but felt that they needed more information to know where he would like to head with this project. It was commented that caution has to be taken that recommendations would not be seen as mandates from WSSFN. Dr. Taira had suggested an education committee head to work with Dr. Richter and work on future education activities. Dr. Hariz was approached, but said he could not assist due to a variety of commitments. Dr. Taira was planning to approach Dr. Krauss since he has had experience in this area.

Action item: A meeting will be scheduled with Dr. Richter, Dr. Lozano and Dr. Schulder at ASSFN in NYC in June to further discuss the project with Dr. Richter. Melody will organize the meeting.

2. Annual Officer's Meeting ESSFN Athen's: The officer's agreed that it would be useful to have an officer's meeting at ESSFN which will be held September 22-25, 2010. There was a discussion about providing a travel stipend, but the group felt this would not be necessary and would prefer not to use the funds for this purpose. Dr. Schulder may not be able to attend, but a conference call link might be able to be provided. The WSSFN booth and handout materials will be available at the meeting for further visibility and marketing efforts.

3. Finances: The latest financial report had been distributed and the finances look very healthy. AANS had sent revenue for the latest round of membership payments so that will increase the bottom-line.

4. WSSFN Meeting and Flyer: The 2013 meeting flyer had been approved. A larger quantity will be printed and a quantity sent to each of the officers for distribution at various meetings.

5. Membership Status: It was reported that there are 88 members in WSSFN along with the 344 in ASSFN for a total of 414. These numbers will fluctuate based on payment of yearly dues. Of the 88 WSSFN members there were 6 that had been approved for membership through the Outreach Program. There was some discussion about the low use of the Outreach Program which provides one complimentary year of membership in the society along with free access to the online edition of the journal. Some thought should be given as to why the program is not working effectively and to work on further marketing. (The group asked for the names and countries of those in the Outreach Program. Melody contacted AANS and was sent updated information. There are now 6 new members and 6 who have not been accepted into the program but should be processed after the AANS annual meeting. The list was sent to those requesting the information).

Action item: Continue to market the program and general membership through onsite meetings such as ASSFN and ESSFN. Also, Melody will resend the information to the leadership and suggest that they encourage use of the Outreach Program opportunity. Dr. Neimat will also be contacted to move the information about the Outreach Program to a more prominent place on the web site home page.

There was also some discussion relating to lower membership numbers due to the cost of the journal. A suggestion was made to provide membership by having fees with and without the journal. However, it was thought that this might threaten the journal's use because in part, membership is also used to drive the use of the journal. Additional discussion centered on the dissatisfaction of the publisher, Karger, as not being responsive and not supportive. However, comments were also made that the journal has improved, seems to have a broader impact and changing publishers would be difficult.

6. Newsletter: the next newsletter will be out in early summer. Dr. Oh is working on placement of an article from Dr. Piedimonte and a feature article about Dr. Awan. There will also be various updates and meeting announcements.

7. Web Site Status: It was agreed that the photos were an interesting addition to the web site, but there is some difficulty with several of the larger files opening readily. There will be some changes to the web site as noted above as well the additions of more updated minutes, and announcements of upcoming society meetings. The information has been provided to Dr. Neimat who planned to work on the updates in the near future.

8. Other: There was no additional business so the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 am EST.