

**The World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery**

Founded in 1961 as International Society for Research in Stereoencephalotomy

**WSSFN  
Minutes  
Board of Director’s Meeting**

**June 25, 2019**

**New York City, New York**

Indicated Attendance: Ahmed Alkhani, Tipu Aziz, Faisal, Al-Otaibi, Ronald Alterman, Juan Barcia, Jocelyne Bloch, Patric Blomstedt; Giovanni Broggi,Terry Coyne, Stephan Chabardes Jin Woo Chang; Rees Cosgrove, Volker Coenen, Paresh Doshi; Jairo Espinosa, Erich Fonoff, Antonio, Goncalves-Ferriera, Clement Hamani; Marwan Hariz, Chris Honey; Mojgan Hodaie, Ryoong Huh, Joachim Krauss, Andres Lozano, Joseph Neimat; Bart Nuttin; Jean Regis, Ali Rezai, Erich Richter, David Roberts, Vaishya Sandeep Ali Savas, Michael Schulder; Rick Schuurman, Jason Schwalb, Marc Sindou, Andrey Sitnikov, Konstantin Slavin; Roberto Spiegelmann, Byung Chul Son; Bomin Sun, Takaomi Taira; Makato Taniguchi, Hiroki Toda, Jürgen Voges and Melody Dian

**1. Welcome:**

Dr. Schulder warmly welcomed and thanked the group for attending the meeting and for their continued support of WSSFN.

**2. Brief overview of the WSSFN 2019 Congress: (Dr. Schulder)**

Dr. Schulder thanked Dr. Neimat and the scientific program committee for their hard work towards the success of the meeting. The scientific content and expertise shared by the speakers was excellent. Attendance is at approximately 980 from 57 countries, with 240 speakers and 482 abstracts submitted. There were a large number of requests for travel grants so 30 were provided. Additionally a 50% registration fee reimbursement was provided to 4 young staff from countries that could otherwise not support their attendance. Sponsorship funding exceeded expectations. The venue was well located with ample space for the program. There is a projected financial profit from the meeting.

**3. Review of membership and finances** (**Dr. Hodaie and Dr. Schulder)**:

Membership information was highlighted. Membership in WSSFN has grown significantly from its founding days to the current membership. The information listed on the membership handout was a reflection of the Mutual Benefit Plan and also reflected the numbers on the original agreement with each society. There are 150 individual WSSFN members, 200 ESSFN members, 30 JSSFN Board members, 101 KSSFN members, 100 ISSFN members, 30 MSSFN members, 100 SLANFE members, 40 Russian Society-RFNS members. China is also a new addition with 29 members. There are a total of 1155 WSSFN members. The overall WSSFN membership growth in the past years has been mainly due to negotiation with the regional societies 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 at the end of May 2019 of $724, 737 which includes the funds in the society account and the deposit of the three CD’s from the Bank of Montreal which had reached maturity in 2018. Dr. Hodaie prepared a bar graph showing the steady increase in the WSSFN financial income balance as well as the expenses from years 2013-2018. A financial summary was provided to the Board. It was recommended that an amount be moved from the checking account to CD’s to provide a better financial yield. Research will be done to see how WSSFN can best utilize its finances and yet have access to adequate funds in case of unexpected expenses.

**4. WSSFN Mutual Benefit Plan (Dr. Krauss)**

Significant progress had been made with other societies joining WSSFN as noted in the membership information above. Dr. Krauss explained that it has taken over 10 years for Karger and the various societies to come together with a mutually beneficial agreement. ASSFN and ESSFN, although WSSFN members, handle their own agreement with Karger. The current agreement with Karger is that societies 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 makes the society membership affordable. WSSFN invoices each society, and then pays the invoice provided by Karger to cover the membership numbers agreed upon. This gives the members online access to the journal. Agreements with each regional society are in place for 4 years so it is possible that re-negotiation with Karger and the societies will be done in 2020. It was also determined for more efficiency, the societies will be invoiced on a yearly bases starting January 1, 2019.

As an important incentive, presidents of the other society would become part of the WSSFN leadership as Continental Vice Presidents giving them additional visibility and a voice in global activities. Other countries may be approached to gauge interest in WSSFN membership.

**5. Suggestions for New officers and Board Leadership Members: (All)**

The new slate of officers had been approved by the Board to include: Dr. Chang as President, Dr. Slavin as Vice President, Dr. Regis as Secretary, Dr. Hodaie as Vice- Secretary and Dr. Sun as Treasurer, Additionally Dr. Schulder provided a complete list of the new slate of Board members noting those who will be returning as well as the new additions. It was also noted that since WSSFN is a global society it is important to keep geography in mind. There are 30 Board members with a term of 4 years which can be renewable. Several current Board members are rotating off the Board. A paper ballot was to be provided for voting at the General Assembly meeting on Thursday, June 27. Twenty two candidates were listed and from that, eleven individuals were to be selected. (Voting was held and new Board members were selected and approved at the General Assembly Meeting. (Final information will be posted on the WSSFN website in the near future).

The leadership also includes the Continental Vice presidents who are the presidents (or a representative) of each of the regional societies, and those with specific responsibilities as either committee or task force chairman.

**6. Committee Updates: Dr. Nuttin Psychiatric Committee; Dr. Lozano and Dr. Krauss, Education and Research)**

Dr. Nuttin reported that the Psychiatric Committee meeting was to take place Wednesday, June 26th. Committee participation is high reflecting the interest in the activities. Any updates will be forthcoming.

In education, it was noted that the interim meetings will continue, but be focused on the educational needs of the region. They are planned to be much smaller, with a different structure (for example no call for abstracts) than the main biennial meeting. The first meeting is planned for November 2020 in Dubai with the target audience the Middle East. The planning committee will be organized and budget including financial needs will start development.

There have been two papers already published through the WSSFN committee. It was suggested that topics for future papers could include technical aspects of DBS; lesioning vs DBS, awake vs asleep in DBS; role of neuromodulation in epilepsy. Suggestions and interested participants would be welcomed.

**7. Journal Report (Dr. Roberts)**

Dr. Roberts stated that although the manuscript submissions continue to have broad geographic representation, there has been an increase in submissions from Asia. For example, there are approximately 27% submitted from North and South America, 27% from Europe and 44% from Asia. In 2018 there were 189 submissions with clinical and case reports most frequent. The acceptance and revision rate for manuscripts is currently 37%. Dr. Roberts stated that overall the health of the journal is strong.

He let the Board know that Thomas Nold, our longtime contact is retiring. His replacement is Kathryn Schoefert. Dr. Roberts also said he was transitioning from his editorial position. An announcement of his replacement will be forthcoming.

**8. Newsletter Report (Dr. Richter)**

Dr. Schulder thanked Dr. Richter for his work on the newsletter stating that the quality of the materials is very high. He did mention that perhaps a new style of newsletter might be considered moving forward. Dr. Richter said that contributions are always appreciated but content is always needed. He added that he would appreciate more information on the planning of activities rather than reports after the fact. The next newsletter will be distributed in the fall.

**9. Webinars: (Dr. Nico Enslin)**

Dr. Schulder provided the report from Dr. Enslin who is recuperating from an illness and unable to travel. There have been two webinars, one in the summer of 2018, “Directional DBS Leads…” and one in the late winter of 2019, “Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation…” Dr. Rushna Ali has also been very instrumental in organizing the webinars. The presenters did an excellent job and attendance was satisfactory especially since these were the first WSSFN webinar efforts. It was suggested that additional webinars be held, perhaps one per quarter. Topics and help with organizing are always appreciated. Additional information can be found in the latest newsletter posted on the WSSFN website.

**10. New Constitution and By-law (All)**

There were no changes to the By-laws. However, as a reminder, the standing committees will remain; the other groups will now be called task forces. The task force terminology indicates the group will have a specific job and disband upon completion. The president will be ex-officio of each group.

**13. Other items:**

There were no additional discussion items so the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.