First and foremost I wish to thank you for putting your trust in me to lead this society through challenges ahead. To me, the distinguishing hallmark of ISCEV from my first encounters is the “family spirit”. While we are competitively striving to further our understanding of the physiology and pathophysiology of vision, this occurs in an atmosphere of supportive understanding, with gestures of goodwill and welcome that warm one’s heart. Not that we are just warm and fuzzy and forgiving: I have witnessed a marked and steady increase in quality over the last 20 years. Quality here is meant in the “classic” meaning of the word: the continuous process of separating knowledge from belief, replacing “gut feeling” by deeper understanding, and being ready to receive and give constructive critique. This is close to one definition of science itself: the systematic process of reducing error in our understanding of nature. We do this, with the central aim of the well-being of our patients, as well as the productive interaction of clinical problems, clinical insight and basic research; the second hallmark of ISCEV for me.

I will strive, together with you, to further develop quality in our field. In the last decade we have established standards / guidelines for our methods – a very important, productive, controversial and fruitful process. These standards are not static at all: understanding and methodology is in continuous transition, and the standards have to be “lived”, that is really incorporated into all equipment and all procedures. The continuous development of our field also means that we need to re-educate ourselves continuously. ISCEV symposia and the courses are successful arenas where this takes place. We are lucky that we successfully attract new colleagues. Here it is
where the family feeling of ISCEV becomes tangible: we already have a material and motivational support system for young colleagues in place, in the form of travel grants and the Dodt award. I plan to extend these initiatives, for instance in the form of support for young researchers to visit more experienced laboratories.

I had not the slightest inkling of this when the late Dr. Röver introduced me to this society seventeen years ago. I wish he would be here to share; he invested many hours teaching me about ophthalmology and eye diseases; I wish I could thank him more for involving me with ISCEV. I would also like to thank Yozo Miyake, former President, for delivering the society in such ship a shape. You set high standards. And as is good style for the concluding paragraph of a paper “end with a bang, not a whimper”: The Nagoya Symposium certainly was a bang! A big success – through your and your co-worker’s relentless effort everything went completely smoothly, scientific levels excellent, the site was fabulous, the theatre stage just the thing for us and your countrymen made us feel very welcome – it was a wonderful experience throughout. Thank you for serving as a stimulating President, thank you for arranging a most memorable meeting.

Several milestones already mark the current year for ISCEV:

- we have agreed on a markedly improved VEP standard
- many of us have participated in an exciting ISCEV@ARVO
- our treasurer Ulrich Kellner has instituted on-line payment of membership dues
- the challenge of newsletter production, which I took over from our capable Secretary General Colin Barber in 1997 has been taken up by Vaegan, and
- ISCEV has been set up as a tax-free registered society.

We are looking forward to the next milestone, the “Symposium del Sol”, as Bill Dawson aptly likes to call it. I also look forward to handing over the job of Director of International Communications to a successor, more on this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Let me conclude by thanking you again for the honour of serving you as President. I view this as a challenge, and I will strive to rise to it, holding up the quality and the “family spirit” in ISCEV.

Michael Bach, PhD, President of ISCEV

Retiring President’s Report

I shall be forever grateful to have served my 4-year term as the ISCEV President and extend my thanks all those who have supported me during my term. Above all, the Secretary General, Prof. Colin Barber, has always been at my side to cover my weak points. Prof. James V Odom’s editorial work of Documenta Ophthalmologica and Prof. Ulrich Kellner’s role as Treasurer take up a great part of their daily life, and I am deeply obliged to them for their hard work. During my Presidency, I was also very impressed by the great contribution of Prof Michael Bach for his several ideas of international communication, Prof. Michael Marmor for the Director of Standards, and Prof., Richard Weleber for the organization of the Western Hemisphere. The innovative CEVnet, wherein members are able - at any time - to introduce particular cases or raise questions and to receive feedback and conduct discussions, was developed by Dr. Scott Brodie; This event needs to be acknowledged, and Scott deserves special thanks.

During the past 4 years, Australia, Canada, Belgium and Japan have hosted the annual ISCEV Symposium, and every gathering has demonstrated the valued tradition of the society; to organize a highly educational meeting in a very family-like atmosphere. Additionally, I have been very pleased that ISCEV branch meetings are now held once a year prior to ARVO in the US, and also regularly in countries such as Japan, UK, Germany and China, all serving as worldwide sites to actively exchange ideas and knowledge on clinical visual electrophysiology.

ISCEV has continued to grow every year and the society may seem to have a bright future ahead. Unfortunately, I cannot be that optimistic: I have been informed that the number of ophthalmologists having an interest in this field is decreasing. Ideally, I would like to have seen more researchers from other, related, fields come and join our society, but unfortunately this has not been the situation. Under these circumstances our members are more than ever expected to conduct meaningful studies, make scientific advances that are clinically useful, and to promote our work in other fields of research.

It is vital that our society attracts new younger members with promising futures, and I ask the board members to give serious hought to this issue in helping to further develop our society.

The 41st ISCEV Symposium was held from 1-5 April in Nagoya, Japan and as the host of that meeting, I wish to thank...
everyone for allowing me to have that honor. Initially I was
planning to host the meeting in 2000 in Bali (Indonesia) but
you all decided that the honor should go to Dr. Vaegan who
organized a very successful meeting in the beautiful city of
Sydney. In 2003 I gave up the idea of holding it in Bali but
rather decided to host in my own town of Nagoya during the
time the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. The decision was a
wise one, because at that time Bali was faced with political
problems and also the cherry blossoms in Nagoya happened to
be in full bloom exactly at the time of our meeting. Until the
meeting, however, the amount of stress and concern the local
organizing committees, including myself had, was beyond
imagination. Just prior to the meeting, the Iraq war had begun
and, to make things worth, SARS broke out in Asia. Suddenly
no one wanted to travel, especially to Asia. Another factor out
of our control was the cherry blossoms; they are very
unpredictable as to when they bloom. For example in 2002,
they bloomed fully in the middle of March, and we were full of
concern as to when they would bloom in 2003. However, we
were blessed and they were in full bloom on April 1, which
was the day of our opening ceremony. Furthermore, even
under such difficult international conditions, 161 overseas and
86 Japanese people, a total 247 attendees, participated in the
meeting. This was the greatest number of people attending
during ISCEV’s history. I must acknowledge that we had
many Asian participants other than Japanese, indicating the
society has been able to gather many new Asian members.

When I took over the Presidency of the society, this was one of
my goals, to increase the number of Asian members. The
meeting took place in a Noh theater; Noh is a traditional
Japanese art. Since Noh play is considered to be very sacred,
no one expected to be allowed onto the stage; I
negotiated with Nagoya city and was finally granted
permission to hold our event, allowing all speakers to come
onto the stage during their talk to enjoy ISCEV in a Japanese
traditional environment. This ISCEV meeting had 153
presentations: 2 major invited lectures, 9 introductory lectures,
4 luncheon seminars, 44 papers, and 94 posters. The main
topics of the meeting were “Multifocal responses from the
visual pathways” and “Night blinding disorders: animal
models and clinical investigations”.

The two major invited lectures were:
(1) D Bok (USA): Response of genetically-damaged
photoreceptors to adeno-associated virus-mediated ciliary
neurotrophic factor therapy and to an inducible rescue gene in
an animal model: morphological and electroretinographic
(ERG) changes

(2) Y Tazawa (Japan): The s-wave of the multifocal
electroretinogram: its characteristics and clinical application

The Eberhard Dodt Award recipient was Dr. Julie Racine from
Canada, who presented their mutant Guinea pigs with night
blindness as a good model of congenital stationary night
blindness. Unfortunately, Prof. Dodt’s widow, Mrs. Elke Dodt,
who usually attends the ceremony and congratulates the
recipient, could not attend the meeting this year. We all missed
her but she did write a very heartfelt letter, which I had the
honor to read at the Award ceremony.

Many valuable papers were delivered and together with
Japanese tradition and cherry blossoms, this meeting turned
out to be one of the most successful ones. I take this
opportunity to once again express my gratitude to all those
who travelled a long way to join the gathering. Hosting the
Nagoya ISCEV during the last year of my term of Presidency
shall remain in my heart as the last and the most significant
event during my ISCEV years.

Yozo Miyake, MD, Past President of ISCEV

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Treasurer’s Report

Dear ISCEV members,

Attached you will find the treasurer’s report for 2003. In
general, ISCEV is a financially healthy society. Since the end
of the year 2003 ISCEV is a registered, tax-exempt society in
Germany. To be in accordance with the requirements for
accounting of such societies, the financial year has to begin
with January, 1st and end with December, 31st. Unfortunately,
this is in contradiction with the suggestion I have made in the
previous treasurer’s report to handle the financial year
differently. The table displays all amounts in US Dollar, with
the difficulty that over time the exchange rate between EURO
and US Dollar is variable. Roughly, half of the assets are kept
in US Dollar and the other half in EURO.

Please note, that the outstanding liabilities for 2004 exceed
the expected income. As the year is already well advanced, most
of the outstanding income and liabilities are already settled.

Since some time it is also possible to use the ONLINE
payment option for payment of membership dues, and this is
the most secure and therefore preferred method of payment.
Please let me know, when there are any problems with
ONLINE payment.

Please take also a look at the proposal of revised bye-laws,
because these are mandatory to maintain ISCEV as a registered
society. Best regards and looking forward to see you in Puerto
Rico.
### Treasurers Report 2003


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<thead>
<tr>
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#### Outstanding Income 2004 (estimated)

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<td>Kluwer Royalty 2004</td>
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<td><strong>Sum</strong></td>
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#### Total Income

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<table>
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<td>Kluwer Publisher 2002</td>
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#### Outstanding Liabilities 2004 (estimated)

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#### Total Expenditure

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#### Teaching Account

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Weleber</td>
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<td><strong>Sum</strong></td>
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#### Total Assets (as of 31. Dec 2003)

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*Ulrich Kellner - ISCEV Treasurer -
<iscev@retinascience.de>*

[http://retinascience.de](http://retinascience.de)
Secretary General’s Report

‘Time flies like an arrow’ so swift; so straight; so completely unidirectional. So my 4-year term of office as Secretary-General, which began in 1991, will end at the end of this year. I was actually elected as Secretary for Europe & Africa, which position has disappeared along with the other regional secretary posts. Also, the Secretary-General is now appointed, rather than elected. None of this is of any great import, except to illustrate that our society changes with time. This process of gradual change, of evolution, of renewal, is vital for the continuing health of any society. It is for this reason that I decided to step down now, ignoring all those who have asked me to stay on. But I have to say that those oft-repeated requests gave me immense personal pleasure, as has the whole business of serving our society as Secretary-General for all these years.

I am not going away. Certainly, I shall do whatever it takes to ensure a smooth hand-over to the next Secretary-General. Hopefully, I shall be permitted to continue to serve in another, less demanding, position. Absolutely, I shall continue to enjoy our society and especially its annual symposium.

Finally, to satisfy the erudite, enquiring minds for which our society is known, the remainder of the quotation is “but fruit flies like a banana”.

Colin Barber, PhD, Secretary-General (2004)

Director of Standard’s Report

It has been a unique (if occasionally contentious) honor to serve as the ISCEV Director of Standards, formally or de facto, for more than 15 years. When we wrote the first ERG Standard, along with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the ERG was a poorly controlled test that was performed world-wide with vastly different adaptation times, stimulus colors, stimulus intensities, etc. The new Standard was spectacularly successful in that it was simple and accessible, and it made basic ERG responses such as the dark-adapted combined response or the cone response recognizable and comparable whether done in England, Japan, India or (heaven forbid) at Stanford.

Since that first Standard in 1989 we have added Standards for EOG, VEP, PERG and a guideline for mfERG. These are providing a universal basis for electrophysiologic testing that now drive not only clinical diagnosis, but the evaluation of new drugs and therapies. It is important to remember that these Standards are NOT necessarily the best or only way of performing these tests, but they provide a universally acceptable CORE of responses that can be done with all types of available equipment and that provide minimum basic clinical information in a format that is comparable world-wide. This is the power of these Standards, and I hope that can continue.

During the last year ISCEV has published updated revisions of three Standards, the ERG, VEP and PERG. These new versions were initially approved in Nagoya in 2004 and are all available on our website with the kind permission of Kluwer. As you all know there was considerable discussion about the new VEP Standard, as to whether it should require 1 or 3 channels. The present version, requiring only 1, is very sound and will make this test much easier to perform in clinical labs around the world that are not presently performing (or comfortable with) VEP testing. Meanwhile an ISCEV taskforce chaired by Vaegan will examine the relative importance of the number of channels, and we may be in a better position in a few years to re-address this issue.

Members with relevant data should contact Vaegan. But as noted above, I urge you all to keep the purpose of the Standards in mind: they are a MINIMAL core, not the best research-lab technique. And they do not prevent any lab from adding conditions and stimuli that meet their own internal needs.

A major issue for ISCEV, and our new Director of Standards, to consider is that the wide use of ERG (and increasingly mfERG) to objectively monitor disease and drug toxicity is often frustrated by the 20 to 30% variability of these tests on repeat recording, and by the different normative values among laboratories. There are undoubtedly many factors involved, but one that could be controlled is the range of acceptable stimuli. This range was made somewhat broad when the first
Standard was written because of limitations in the commercial equipment. That is no longer so much of an issue. Another question is whether higher-intensity stimuli would be better, or should be added to the ERG protocol (as “recommended” in the 2004 ERG Standard). We have some data from our own lab suggesting that these higher intensity stimuli will add little to routine diagnostic testing, and there is good reason (as noted above) to keep the Standards simple and basic. More data is needed to help us make the wisest decisions.

The mfERG guidelines will come up soon for revision as a Standard, and the authors will need to consider similar issues.

I have enjoyed serving ISCEV and the community of electrophysiologists for so many years. I have tried to do so with honesty, and with primary concern for our discipline and for our goals as monitors of the clinical applications of electrophysiology. I wish my successor good luck and wisdom in carrying on this vital part of the ISCEV mission. You are all my friends as well as colleagues, and I look forward now to a more relaxed sharing of science, interesting cases, and wonderful meetings for (hopefully) many years.

Michael F. Marmor, MD,
Retiring ISCEV Director of Standards

The annual ISCEV Teaching Course for 2003 took place in Nagoya, and immediately preceded the main ISCEV Symposium hosted impecably by Professor Yozo Miyake. The Course was well attended by 69 participants, and was judged by them to be a great success. The teaching faculty comprised Drs Bach, Holder, Hood and Weleber. The assistance of local organiser Dr Mineo Kondo and his team is gratefully acknowledged.

In a break from the tradition that the Course is held in association with the main ISCEV Meeting, this year’s Course was held in August in Hyderabad, India, site of the main ISCEV Meeting in 2007. Local organizer Dr Subhadra Jalali and her team provided splendid hospitality to the Faculty of Drs Hogg, Holder and Kellner. Particular thanks are extended to Mohan Ram, whom many of you will recall for the “sari thread” electrode, for his invaluable assistance during the practical demonstrations. The Course was very well attended, with 67 registrants from throughout India, and bodes extremely well for the success of the 2007 ISCEV Meeting. The experience of India is one that ISCEV members should relish.

ISCEV approved Courses were run in Berlin, by Dr Kellner, in Munich by Dr Berninger and at Moorfields. There were 21 participants for the annual Course in Berlin, and the teaching faculty were Drs Bach, Kellner, Lapp, Rüther and Wuppertal. The annual Moorfields Electrophysiology of Vision Course took place in March with 37 registrants, and. The faculty comprised Drs Arden, Audo, Bach, Bird, Fitzke, Hogg, Holder, Leroy, Niemeyer, Robson (AG), Sandbach and Thompson. The annual meeting in Munich was organised in May by Dr Thomas Berninger with a faculty of Drs Arden, Bach, Besch, Berninger, Hogg, Holder, Kalpadakis, Krastel, Meigen, Neubauer, Palmowski, Rudolph, and Wildberger. There were 48 registrants.

ISCEV Members intending to run “ISCEV Approved” Courses are again reminded that they should forward details of Course content and faculty to the Director of Education for approval. Details can then be published on the ISCEV web-site.

Graham E Holder
Director of Education
Moorfields Eye Hospital, London
September, 2004

In 2003, ISCEV renegotiated its affiliation with Kluwer, which has since joined the Springer group. Major results of that renegotiation were an increase in the size of each issue of Documenta Ophthalmologica and the electronic processing of manuscripts via e-mail. Let me review the consequences of those two results below. As has been my custom, I submit summary tables compiled by Ms Murray and myself based on data from Peter Butler at Springer at the end of the report.

Effects of Electronic Submission.
To submit articles send them as attachments to DOOP@springer-sbm.com. Because manuscript review is currently handled via e-mail (through Springer), the review process is more streamlined. The average time between our receiving a manuscript and our sending out a letter informing the authors of the initial results of the review process is currently 5 weeks. On average, we are able to make a final decision on manuscripts within two months. The time from acceptance to publication is roughly 6–10 weeks; therefore the entire time for manuscript processing is roughly 3-4 months.
This corresponds well with other ophthalmology and vision journals. The variability in time from acceptance to publication is related to three factors: the fact that we publish every two months, the time authors take in returning proofs, and copy flow.

Effects of Larger Issue Size.

Because of the increase in the size of individual issues, we no longer have a backlog of articles. Therefore, we no longer have large numbers of articles in line for publications. This facilitates rapid publication of articles submitted. In the “old” days we needed approximately 55 total submissions per year to fill our journal of roughly 48 articles (assuming 6 issues of about 8 articles per issue and a rejection rate of about 10%). Combining special issues and regular issues, we more than met those goals in 2000–2003. Currently our issue size is about 15 articles per issue. Thus we need a copy flow of approximately 100 total articles per year to completely fill the issues, assuming that we have a rejection rate of 10%.

Major Concerns.

Documenta Ophthalmologica lost its impact factor in 2000. Kluwer has resubmitted their information to ISI and is awaiting word on ISI’s decision about reinstating an impact factor for the journal. I have followed up with letters emphasizing ISCEV’s commitment to the journal. However, ISI’s process of reinstatement usually takes several years. Hopefully we will soon have that process completed. Several factors threaten our regular copy flow and the return of the impact factor.

• We have become a much more selective journal. In both 2002 and 2003, we rejected more than 20% of the articles submitted. Articles submitted by non-ISCEV members, which were unrelated to visual electrophysiology or visual function, continued to be returned without review and are listed as rejected articles. This accounts for a substantial portion of the rejection rate.

• We had a substantial decline in regular submissions in 2003. There were only 41 submissions. This followed three years of stable or increasing submissions. However, we are still well above our submission rate of 30 articles in 1998. I think this reflects continued support of the journal.

• In past years, special issues have formed a major portion of our copy flow. However, in 2003, my efforts to encourage special issues were unsuccessful. Only recently several members have taken on the task of developing special issues. These issues will likely be completed toward the end of 2004 (Brigell, Dong, and Tzekov) and the end of 2005 (Lachapelle).

Clinical Cases:

In 2002, Dr. Scott Brodie became the editor for clinical cases and the first clinical cases were published in 2003. The hope of the editorial board is that this section will become a regular section of the journal. We have reserved space for three clinical cases per issue so that there will always be rapid publication of clinical cases. Clinical cases may be submitted directly to Dr. Brodie electronically (scott.brodie@mssm.edu) or to Springer (DOOP@springer-sbm.com). If the clinical case is submitted to Springer, be clear in the cover message that the submission is as a clinical case so that it is referred to Dr. Brodie.

Editorial Board and Rules for Editorial Board Membership.

Beginning in 2002, the editorial board was restructured to create three associate editors. The decision to create regionally based Associate Editors was based on two ideas. First, ISCEV is regionally organized; therefore, having regional Associate Editors follows the general structure of ISCEV. Secondly, regionally based associate editors would have responsibility for encouraging submissions from their respective regions. In addition, each regional editor has taken on a special role within the editorial board. Dr. Brodie is responsible for clinical cases. Dr. Bach has organized our electronic access to Documenta Ophthalmologica with Mr. Butler. Dr. Kondo has been working on developing rules for the board. He will present a draft of these rules in 2004. Below I list the current members of the editorial board who were selected by the Editor in Chief and the Associate Editors in 2002. We will have our annual board meeting at the annual meeting of ISCEV.

Journal Statistics

Currently, through online consortia library arrangements there are over 1200 institutes, which have access to Documenta Ophthalmologica issues and articles. If you were to add up all the individuals at these institutions, then there would be millions of people with access to Documenta Ophthalmologica.

One thing that has made the journal work better is that you have contacted me when you thought that there might be problems with manuscripts. I encourage you to continue to do so. You may send such comments by regular mail or e-mail to me, at the addresses below.

J. Vernon Odom, Ph.D., ISCEV EDITOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Editor-in-Chief</td>
<td>J. Vernon Odom</td>
<td>West Virginia University Eye Institute Morgantown, WV USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Editor for the Americas:</td>
<td>Scott Brodie</td>
<td>Mt. Sinai School of Medicine New York, NY USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Editor for Asia</td>
<td>Mineo Kondo</td>
<td>Nagoya University School of Medicine Nagoya, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Editor for Europe and Africa</td>
<td>Michael Bach</td>
<td>University Eye Clinic, Freiburg Freiburg, Germany</td>
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<td>Editorial Board Members:</td>
<td>Geoffrey Arden</td>
<td>City University London, England</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colin Barber</td>
<td>Queens Medical Centre Nottingham, England</td>
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<td>David Birch</td>
<td>Retina Foundation of the Southwest Dallas, TX USA</td>
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<td>Mitchell Brigell</td>
<td>Pfizer Global Research &amp; Development Ann Arbor, MI USA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Dawson</td>
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### Documenta Ophthalmologica: Summary Statistics

#### Table 1: 1998 - 2003

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<th>2000</th>
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* Transition from publisher controlled reviews to editor-controlled reviews
** Represents time from receipt by editor to decision by editor
† Majority of articles handled electronically through DOOP@ springer-sbm.com

### Manuscript Status

**Table 2. Manuscript Status July 2004.**

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### DOOP Usage Statistics

Springer is able to monitor more closely the usage of its journal portfolio, in particular the number of times the full-text of an article is downloaded.

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2003 Ten Most Accessed Articles


2004 Ten Most Accessed Articles (based on first 6 months)


J. Vernon Odom, Ph.D., ISCEV EDITOR West Virginia University Eye Institute Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center One Stadium Drive P.O. Box 9193 Morgantown, WV 26506-9193, USA Telephone: +1 (304) 598-6959 Fax: +1 (304) 598-6928 E Mail: jodom@wvu.edu

2004 Election Results

Members: Position

Michael Bach: President
Don Hood: Secretary for the Americas
Patrizia Torreme: Member at Large
Prof Emiko Adachi: Honorary Member
Dr Günter Niemeyer: Honorary Member

Year Symposia Site Host

2005: France Francois Ragudiere (special variation before her retirement)

2006: Hyderabad, India Subahadra Jalali. June
One of my first tasks as a fresh member-at-large, was the design of the ISCEV website which went public in December 1996. Through the help of many of you we have improved and expanded it to meet the society’s needs, adding members-only content and lately a facility for on-line payment which sizably eases the arduous task of our Treasurer, Ulrich Kellner.

Nearly a decade later the internet has pervaded our lives and proved immensely useful, but also internet based money-pilfering or outright crime has emerged. I have constantly monitored our privacy concerns, e.g. to what degree our membership list can be “harvested” by malicious robot programs for email-spam lists. The email addresses there are encoded such that a typical robot program cannot recognise them. I also sent out a general question to you whether this member list should be in the members-only section, backing-off robots but making it more difficult to access. I received few responses, indicating that this is not seen as a major problem, and the majority indicated it should stay as is. You do have the option to “opt out” of this list, though I do not encourage you to do so since that list is a useful resource. At this time, 3 members have opted out.

The ISCEV website is hosted free of charge by the Freiburg Medical School computing centre. Due to a change in July 2004, updating is more rapid and we now can peruse the access statistics <http://www.uniklinik-freiburg.de/statistik/iscev/2004/index.html>. Rounding the statistics from the last 2 months, I note that we have about 600 hits, corresponding to 100 “visits” per day, and at least half of them are “real people” and not just search machines indexing the site (which is also useful). The majority enter at the homepage which I’ll set at 100%. Around 30% of the visits also include Standards, 30% Symposia, 25% Member List, 20% News, 20% Links and 15% Documenta on-line access; the Standard documents are downloaded by the hundreds. All-in-all I am happy that this resource is used so well.

The work for the website was recognised by the board by inventing the title “Director of International Communications” (DoIC) for me. Over time this position has expanded in importance for ISCEV: In addition to the website, general membership mailings are done, and behind the scene we have installed a secure web-based membership directory which eases the synchronisation between board officers dealing with membership data – the Secretary General, the Treasurer, Scott Brodie who manages (thank you!) the CEVnet discussion list, and myself. Consequently, the board proposes that the DoIC should be held by an officer elected through a fully democratic voting procedure rather than by board appointment, and this is one of the tasks for the membership meeting at the 2005 symposium.

This concludes my farewell report as DoIC. I thank you for your constant positive critique, helping with my English, pointing out spelling errors and rooting out dead links. I will be happy to hand on the baton to the new, elected, Director of International Communications (DoIC)!

Michael Bach, PhD,
Director of International Communications (2004)

At the request of the ISCEV Secretary General, a small subcommittee was formed to seek an empirical solution to the controversy which so dominated a lot of last year’s CVnet correspondence and the debate on the ISCEV standards at Nagoya. The subcommittee decided to attempt a retrospective study to try to resolve the 1 vs 3 (or 5) channel recording controversy. A call for help and collaboration was posted on CVnet.

All members, but especially those with large labs looking at a lot of CNS accidents, were asked to send multichannel VEP data from patients with documented lesions of the chiasm; optic radiations; occipital cortex with and without visual field defects, as well as an equal number of patients with pre-chiasmal disease and age matched (within 10%) normals, recorded at the nearest possible time (to avoid sampling bias of normals). Thus, data was requested in sets of 4 cases. Any data set could be a pattern or flash VEP.

Data submitters were also asked to send fields and final ophthalmological or neurological diagnosis and description of
supporting evidence (covering letter, notes on MRI, cat scan, etc) for each case. The accompanying information should specify age, electrode positions, stimulus type (flash, reversal or appearance/disappearance), stimulus specification if not ISCEV standard, Numerical data would preferably be in the form of time/amplitude measures in pairs in an Excel sheet format or tab delimited text, which can be graphed and/or manipulated i.e. to show Oz-O1 and Oz-O2 traces.

We (sadly) agree that the issue of full Vs hemifield stimulation is not in our brief and the study should only include the problem of full fields with central fixation as raised in the issue of the ISCEV standard, where hemifields were not mentioned except as additional procedures. However, we would be interested to know if people have data of this type available for a subsequent study since the bulk of evidences is that multiple channels are most useful with hemifield stimulation.

All data sets or initial expressions of interest and offers to help should be sent to Vaegan, using the contact details below. He will coordinate data collection and distribution.

Mitch Brigell, Carol Westall, Franz Reimslag,
vaegan@unsw.edu.au
Optometry, UNSW,
Sydney, NSW, 2052 Australia.

Future Symposia

2005

The XXXXIInd ISCEV Symposium will be at the Hyatt Dorado Resort and Country Club. Puerto Rico. Organised by W Dawson. He is pictured left with his charming wife Judyth. The dates are 14-18 November. The topics are:
Origins of retinal signals
Imaging and pattern processing/stimulation

The XXXXIIIth ISCEV Symposium will be organised by Daphne McCulloch and co-workers in Glasgow, UK. The dates are 23-27 August. The topics are:
The development and the decline of the visual system
The effects of nutrition, drugs or toxins on the visual system

A full image of the advertising flyer for Glasgow with full details of the plans and committee are shown on the next page.

2007

The XXXXIVth ISCEV Symposium will be held at the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud from Sunday 11th to Thursday 15th June 2006. Pre organization is going on. If anyone wants to have a look at the history of the abbey, the web site is www.abbaye-fontevraud.com. The information is in several languages.

The XXXXVth ISCEV Symposium will be hosted by Dr. Subhadra Jalali, MD, in Hyderabad, India. It is scheduled for the last week of August 2007 (email:subhadra@lvpei.org)

Hyderabad-Secunderabad twin cities fused into one, is a city where North meets South, Islam meets Hinduism and Consent meets Cosmopolitanism. The Hyderabad-Secunderabad era of the city is from the 18th century onwards and begins after the Quli-Qutub shahi dynasty ended. All the cultures that have reigned in the two cities have left indelible marks. The result is a unique cultural amalgam and social blend to which modernism has added its flavour. Major industries, educational institutions and important research and training centres are located in this city. It is the pride of the Deccan state. A mild climate and air of spaciousness and old world values of courtesy and politeness add to the attraction of the twin cities.
Please mark your diaries and plan to attend:

**ISCEV XLIII Annual Symposium**

Glasgow, Scotland  **August 23 – 27, 2005**

The local organizing committee in Glasgow is busy planning for 2005. We look forward to your contributions to three and a half days of excellent science highlighting the Symposium themes:

“The development and the decline of the visual system”,

“The effects of nutrition, drugs or toxins on the visual system” and of course “Free Papers”

**Abstract Deadline:** May 25, 2005.

We hope too that you will enjoy some Scottish hospitality with a full social program for delegates and accompanying people, including a civic reception in Glasgow City Chambers, a half day Scottish excursion and a banquet and ceilidh in historic Bute Hall.

The annual symposium will be immediately preceded by affiliated activities:

**ISCEV Teaching Course:**  August 22 – 23 2005 - organiser Ruth Hamilton

**The 3rd Annual BriSCEV* 2005:**  August 22 – 23, 2005 - organiser Stuart Parks

* British Society of Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision
Regional Reports

AMERICAS

ISCEV@ARVO was well attended this year with a full program of excellent papers. Dr Scott Brodie took copies of many of the presentation files on a memory stick. He reports, elsewhere in the newsletter that the Western ARVO original meeting program, with active links to PowerPoint files of the presentations, as provided by the authors, can still be accessed by the following link, sponsored by the CEVnet web site http://www.mssm.edu/faculty/brodis01/ISCEVatARVO/VirtualISCEVatARVO.htm

Don Hood, PhD. ISCEV Secretary for the Americas

AUSTRALASIA

Dr Mizota (left) reports that the 51st annual meeting of Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision was held as a Joint symposium of 41st International Society for Electrophysiology of Vision and 51st annual meeting of Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision at Nagoya organized by Prof. Miyake in April 2003. Many participants enjoyed both the meeting and full bloom of cherry blossoms. It was the very best season to be in Japan and reports about it can be seen in the report of the ISCEV annual meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

The 52nd Annual meeting will be held at Tokyo in October organized by Dr. Yamashima at the Japanese National Rehabilitation Centre.

As usual Australian electrophysiologists met as part of the Australian Association For Vision Science Meeting in Melbourne in November 2003. This year the meeting was combined with The Vision Down Under symposium (4-7 Sept 2004), which was a satellite meeting to the large XV1th International Congress on Eye Research (ICER) meeting, held at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre from 29 August to 3 September 2004. There were several satellite meetings of high interest to visual electrophysiologists including the XIth International Symposium on Retinal Degeneration held on 23-28 August, in Perth. Organised locally by Elizabeth Rakoczy with prominent overseas ophthalmologists on the committee and attending.

In August 2004 Dr Subhadra Jalali (left) ran the first ever ISCEV Ocular Electrophysiology hands-on workshop in India. It was held at L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad on 27th and 28th August 2004. This course was supported by the educational faculty from ISCEV and LVPEI and included The Director of Education Dr. Graham Holder, Dr. Chris Hogg, Dr. Ullrich Kellner, Dr. Subhadra Jalali and Mr. LS Mohan Ram. The course enrolment was over-subscribed, well beyond the limit of 50, and highly successful. A total of 67 participants attended the two day sessions. Basic and advanced techniques of ocular electrophysiology and cases were covered in thirteen presentations. There was also a small display of posters.

In the picture left, Dr Holder describes how large a normal ERG is, in his clinic, to the class.

The course was additionally supported by industry including Alliance medicals (Metrovision), Biomedix Optotechnik and Devices (Veris Agents) and Optisurgicare (Roland Consult Agents). Each of the ISCEV guest faculty also gave a guest lecture (at 7.00 a.m. daily) to about 175 doctors, scientists and students etc., all members of the LVPEI academic community. The aim was to spread knowledge of the scope and value of clinical electrophysiology and advanced techniques in this field. There was great enthusiasm and positive feedback from a large number of people, many of whom were exposed to these techniques for the first time.
On the 16-20 February 2005, we look forward to the Second Singapore Eye Research Institute meeting on research in vision and ophthalmology, at Suntec, Singapore. The meeting will cover everything from Retina to Stem Cell Biology. ISCEV members are involved in the organisation.

Report Prepared by Dr Atsushi Mizota (ISCEV Secretary for Australasia) and Vaegan (Member at Large, Newsletter Editor and Australian Contriuter)

EUROPE

Due to changes in the byelaws, there is no longer a Secretary for Europe/Africa. However, we are delighted that Glasgow has been selected for the XXXXIII symposium.

Minutes of 2004 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Membership Meeting
15.40, Friday 4 April, 2003
Nagoya, Japan

1. Opening by the President

The meeting is opened at 15.40 by the President, Professor Miyake. 73 members are present.

2. Minutes of the 2002 meeting

The minutes of the 2002 Membership Meeting are accepted as a true record and signed as such by the President. There are no matters arising.

3. Report of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General (Professor Barber) presents his report for 2002, which has been published in the Newsletter. There are no matters arising from it.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer (Professor Kellner) says that the report for 2002 has been published in the Newsletter. The financial situation appears very healthy, but is somewhat over-optimistic because payment has not yet been made to Kluwer.

The Treasurer goes on to inform the meeting that 40% of members have not yet paid their dues for 2003.

5. Report of the Editor

The Editor (Dr Odom) gives his annual report, which has been published in the Newsletter.

6. Update on Documenta Ophthalmologica

The Secretary-General reports that the new-look Documenta Ophthalmologica has appeared and has been very well received.

7. Proposals to change the Bye-laws

The Secretary explains the motivation behind the proposals to create three new Board positions (Director of Education, Director of International Communication, Director of Standards) and to cease (through natural wastage) the three Regional Secretary positions, thus keeping the size of the Board the same. Full details are given in the papers for the meeting, in the Symposium Programme/Abstracts Book.

The proposal is put to a vote, with Holder and Kellner acting as tellers.

The proposal is carried, with only 2 votes against, achieving the two-thirds majority needed to change the Bye-laws

8. Elections

The President announces that elections are needed for the following Board positions:

8.1 President

Position vacated by Miyake.

The Secretary-General recounts the nomination process and asks whether there are any nominations from the floor. There are none. He then announces the Board candidates (alphabetically): Prof Michael Bach; Dr Michael Marmor; Dr Paul Sieving. Each (a proxy, Dr Odom in the case of Dr Sieving) makes a brief presentation and it is put to a secret vote. Holder and Kellner act as tellers, as before.

The result is that Bach and Marmor go forward to the mail ballot of all members eligible to vote.

8.2 Vice-president (Americas)

Position vacated by Dawson.

The Secretary-General presents Hood as the Board’s candidate, and asks if there are further nominations from the floor. There are none. In the absence of the candidate, the meeting votes.

Hood is elected unanimously.

8.3 Member-at-Large

New position.

The Secretary-General informs the meeting that the Board has not put forward a candidate, relying instead on nominations from the floor. Prof Adachi proposes Prof Horiguchi (Japan) and the proposal is seconded by Dr Odom. Dr Lachapelle proposes Dr Tormene (Italy) and the proposal is seconded by Dr Westall. Each proposer speaks in favour of her/his candidate. It goes to a ballot.

Each of the two candidates has the requisite > 50% of the individual votes cast.
Horiguchi and Tormene will go forward to a mail ballot of all members eligible to vote.

9. Future Symposia

9.1 2004. (XLII Symposium del Sol)
The Secretary-General presents a video, supplied by Professor Dawson reminding the meeting that this symposium will be in Puerto Rico. The dates are 14-18 November, when the climate is beautiful and the prices reasonable. The topics are:
Origins of signals in Vision
Image Processing in Visual Processing

9.2 2005. (XLIII)
Professor McCulloch makes a presentation on the symposium, which will be in Glasgow. The dates are 23-27 August. The topics are:
The development and the decline of the visual system
The effects of nutrition, drugs or toxins on the visual system

9.3 2006. (XLIV)
The Secretary-General explains that the symposium is due to be in Asia this year and that we have an invitation from Dr Jalali (Hyderabad, India), but that we also have a special invitation from Dr Rigaudière to hold the symposium at the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud. This location will not be available to her (or us) in later years because of Dr Rigaudière’s retirement. He also explains that Dr Jalali is quite amenable to her symposium being delayed until 2007. He asks the meeting to vote on whether to disrupt the usual timetable in this way.
It is decided unanimously to accept this invitation.

Thus the 2006 symposium will be held in Fontevraud, near Paris, France. The dates will probably be 11-15 June.
The 2007 symposium will be held in Hyderabad, India.

10. Standards and Guidelines

10.1 VEP Standard
Dr Odom informs the membership that further work has been done on the VEP standard and proposes that it be accepted for publication. Prof Harding expresses his opposition to it becoming a single-channel standard and elaborates his views on this. Dr Marmor (Director of Standards) replies, pointing out that it is, like all standards, a minimum and members are always free to do more. Furthermore, it acknowledges existing practice, despite there currently being a multi-channel standard. The membership is asked to vote either to accept it (with minor editorial changes) or to refer it back for revision.

It is decided to accept the proposed standard for publication (36 votes to 28)

10.2 ERG Standard
Dr Marmor describes the current status of revision of the ERG standard.

10.3 Calibration Standard
Dr Brigell describes the current status of the calibration standard.

11. Items from the Board Meeting

Professor Colin Barber proposes on behalf of the Board that Prof Emiko Adachi and Dr Günter Niemeyer be elected Honorary Members of the society and speaks in support of the proposal, pointing out their many achievements in the field of ophthalmology and in service to ISCEV. There is voting by show of hands for each individually.
The proposals are carried unanimously.

12. Report of the Symposium Organiser

Prof Yozo Miyake reports that the meeting has been well attended (188 participants) with 44 oral and 94 poster presentations. Also oral pre-presentations for the posters have been successfully used again and there has been a valuable Teaching Course. He is applauded by the meeting for his success.

13. Any Other Business
There is none.

12 Closing of the meeting

The meeting is closed at 16.50

Colin Barber
Secretary-General

Positions for renewal at the AGM in 2004

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A rare photo of the team of Cherry Blossom Zen masters, in full Noh Theatre costume, disguised as Prof Y Miyake and Dr Mineo Kondo. These cunning wizards are highly trained in the strictest disciplines of the most arcane aspects of little known oriental arts and magic. They were hired by the organizing committee to persuade the city fathers to allow the conference to use the sacred Noh Theatre, to make the cherry blossoms bloom precisely on the date of the opening ceremony, to keep the spring winds so mild they would not shake the blossoms from the boughs and to keep all participants happy for the full length of the Conference.

The Zen Cherry Blossom masters taught Japanese Arts of polite formal self expression. Bill Seiple learned a subtle ‘Kyogen’ technique for making good first impressions.

The famous cherry blossom, seen here in close up, was prolific everywhere we went throughout the conference, in all the streets, parks and gardens and around the Nagoya and Inuyama castles.


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The text which accompanies the picture in the book, says:

"Nagoya, Japan: In this modern masterpiece, located outside the JR station Sakura-Dori side, the monument-makers' art has, perhaps, reached its highest peak. The shiny stainless steel used in its construction symbolises the purity of the mathematical approach, and the way that the individual steel elements curve around so that their ends can never be seen parallels the way that complete understanding of the technique always eludes the student. It is also rich in colour symbolism. At night the surrounding neon signs are reflected on the monument, mimicking the appearance of a whole host of clinical conditions. It is claimed that if one starts at a point directly in front of the station entrance and walks around the monument in a clockwise direction, the full range of conditions for which the multifocal ERG offers a definitive diagnosis can be seen in the reflections, in order of their publication. Some find this claim a trifle fanciful."
The Hostesses organisiors wore their kimonos with grace.

Nagoya Castle and moat, as seen from the main hotel.

The ISCEV ladies showed they were able to do the same.

We went to Japan’s oldest castle, Inouyama, and had a banquet at the hotel behind.

The sacred stage of the Noh Theatre, where we trespassed.

The traditional ceremony “Kagamiwari” to open the Saki barrel (right). Prof Miyake taught us to drink it (below).

The sports competition, at the banquet, was of traditional Japanese arts. Surprisingly England’s winning streak ended, the locals faltered and Europe won.
The Eberhardt Dodt Award: 2004

Eberhard Dodt Award recipient Dr. Julie Racine (Canada) shown left at the banquet with her supervisor Dr Pierre LaChapelle. A picture of Julie receiving the award at the symposium banquet with Dr. Miyake was published in the ISCEV news extra of November 2003 page 3.

The award was for her report on the spontaneous mutant guinea pigs they found, which were a model of congenital stationary night blindness. Guinea pigs usually have a negative bright flash scotopic ERGs. Theirs had no rod ERGs and positive bright flash scotopic ERGs. She realised this could help explain ERG generation. Functional and structural studies showed that they had no rods and a decreased OFF- retinal pathway (See Documenta Ophthalmologica, July 2003). She is currently writing other papers that will form the core of her PhD and has talked at several international meetings.

Julie did a Bachelor of Animal Physiology (hons, 1966-1999, U Montreal). A neuroscience project led her to PhD research project at McGill University with Dr. Lachapelle. ISCEV members may remember her as one a referee girl at Montreal. She currently works as a clinical ERG specialist at Montreal Children’s Hospital and thinks teaching would be rewarding but she has many options. We wish her well and hope she will continue to contribute to ISCEV, wherever her path leads.

Other Dodt Award News:

Alison Mackay (2001 Dodt Award winner) from Glasgow University pictured left between Mr and Mrs Kondo with Daphne McCulloch, from Glasgow Caledonian University and our host for ISCV 2006 in Glasgow. Alison saved her award for the 2003 Japan meeting.

Alison’s 2001 award was for “A Laplacian electrode montage detects steady-state VEPs faster than a conventional montage (Oz-Fz) in children over three years old”, with M Bradnam and R. Hamilton. Their paper ‘Improved success in paediatric acuity assessment.’ was in Documenta Ophthalmologica special issue ‘The Rise And Fall Of Vision’ 2003: Her 2003 PhD was on, ‘Assessing childrens visual acuity with steady-state evoked potentials.’ She will soon finish NHS Clinical Scientist training in Liverpool, Clinical Engineering Department. She hopes to continue Ophthalmology research.

Sharon Morong, the winner of the 2002 Eberhart Dodt Award, is pictured left with our Secretary General Colin Barber, enjoying her visit to Japan at the top of the palace during the excursion.

CEVnet News and WebNews

CEVnet, the ISCEV on-line e-mail discussion group for clinical electrophysiology of vision, remains an active forum for our members to share information and queries between meetings. Items of potential interest to colleagues are welcomed, including questions of electrophysiology technique, instrumentation, indications, and interpretation. Interesting, unusual, and, especially, puzzling cases are particularly of value, and often stimulate surprising and informative “threads”.

This year, CEVnet also provided access to an on-line archive of the Western ISCEV meeting (“ISCEV @ ARVO” held in Fort Lauderdale on April 24, 2004). Presenters were invited to provide copies of their “PowerPoint” slide show files, which were placed on our server. CEVnetters received an e-mail summary of the meeting, with active links to the PowerPoint files, which could be downloaded and reviewed as convenient. Members may also use these images (with appropriate attribution) in their own presentations). The file may still be accessed at

http://www.mssm.edu/faculty/brodie01/ISCEVatARVO/VirtuaISCEVatARVO.htm

Scott Brodie
Member at Large
## Board of Officers – 2004-2005

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<td>Michael Bach</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Freiburg University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary-General</td>
<td>Colin Barber</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Queen’s Medical Centre, Nottingham, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ulrich Kellner</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1st</td>
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### Vice-presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Ends</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe / Africa</td>
<td>--vacant--</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>To be voted on in Puerto Rico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>Don Hood</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1st Organiser - Western ISCEV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia / Australia</td>
<td>Azoya Mizota</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Of International</td>
<td>-vacancy-</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Michael Bach To End 2004 To be voted on in Puerto Rico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Of Standards</td>
<td>-vacancy-</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>To be voted on in Puerto Rico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor</td>
<td>J. Vernon Odom</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
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### Members-at-large

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Ends</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pierre Lachapelle</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham E Holder</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Director of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaegan</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Newsletter Editor, VEP Channels Study Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Patrizia Tormene</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitch Brigell</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--vacant--</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td>To be voted on in Puerto Rico</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Advisory Board Member

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Ends</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yozo Miyake</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Nagoya University School of Medicine.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Honorary Members (with year of election)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honorary Member</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AE Kohlrausch †</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Granit †</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM Burian †</td>
<td>1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Karpe †</td>
<td>1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE Henkes</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T Tomita †</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LH van der Tweel †</td>
<td>1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Dodt †</td>
<td>1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB Arden</td>
<td>1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Nilsson</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR Galloway</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Adachi</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Niemeyer</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
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</table>