

# ISCEV Newsletter 2010



## From the President



A number of ISCEV events brightened my life since the last newsletter. Patricia Tormene's beautiful ISCEV Symposium in Abano-Terme was one such highlight; you'll see a review elsewhere in this newsletter. While I usually do not attend every ARVO

meeting, this year I did and especially enjoyed the lively exchange at the ISCEV Western Hemisphere Meeting (ISCEV@ARVO); a highlight there for me was John Robson's re-interpretation of the a-wave: The trough (or "nose", in a prone position, face down) not being a residuum of Granit's PI (going negative) and the PIII (going positive). I've always been uncomfortable with that explanation: for a difference of two large components the a-wave seemed too stable to me. Rather, John considered the huge length of vertebrate rod axons ( $\approx 40 \mu\text{m}$ ), effectively acting like a delay line, which produces the trough and the part of the upward slope within the context of the Hood/Birch model. Nice! There will be further development and discussion of this hypothesis in Perth.

The next and stellar ISCEV-related event was the Arden fest honouring Geoffrey Arden's 80th birthday. Organized by Thomas Berninger, Chris Hogg and John

Heckenlively, it took place at a lovely site in Munich; the core program lasted two and a half days. I was elated by the quality of contributions, which started with Helga Kolb's presentation based on her lifelong dedication to the structure and function of the retina. The full programme is available on the ISCEV website so I will simply mention Paul Sieving's presentation on genetics as another highlight from amongst all the marvellous contributions. Also, a special occasion not experienced since Prof Zrenner's birthday in 2005, four ISCEV presidents were there simultaneously: Sven-Erik Nilsson, Eberhart Zrenner, Yozo Miyake and me.

Turning from the highlights to the bread-and-butter work, our ISCEV wiki [www.iscev-wiki.org/twiki/bin/view](http://www.iscev-wiki.org/twiki/bin/view) was set up to document information and discussion – for instance for the development of ISCEV extended protocols. In my lab we also have such a wiki, which we find very useful to document information; it is easily updated by everyone and keeps a history of all document changes. The ISCEV wiki site is underused in comparison. We will need to decide whether or not to continue this format. In contrast, the CEVnet mailing list carries a number of most interesting discussions and I am always amazed at the depth of resources among our membership.

With this observation I close my column and look forward to meet you at the Perth meeting.

*Michael Bach, PhD  
ISCEV President*

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To improve future newsletters, send your comments to David Keating, [d.keating@clinmed.gla.ac.uk](mailto:d.keating@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)

## From the Secretary General

The 2009-2010 'ISCEV year' between our International Symposia is longer than usual, 16 months, to accommodate the seasonal differences between the northern and southern hemispheres. Although it does seem a long time since we were enjoying the wonderful hospitality in Abano Terme, Italy, for me time seems to be accelerating as we prepare for science, business and camaraderie of the XLVIII ISCEV Symposium in Western Australia.

This will be the second ISCEV Symposium in our 50-year history to be held in Australia, in fact only our second anywhere in the southern hemisphere. The present global economic downturn is cause for concern for a small specialist society such as ISCEV. No doubt, our members have experienced financial constraints on their research and travel budgets and there may be pressure to reduce the use of our diagnostic services. [In fact Colin Barber is leading a review of the format and cost of our symposia to guide our future plans.] However, we have had a strong response to this year's symposium with a very good complement of abstracts and delegates. Clearly the ISCEV Symposia are a valued part of our mission to extend knowledge and to promote co-operation and communication in the field

of clinical electrophysiology of vision. 'Even more remarkable when our venue requires long-distance travel to a country with a strong dollar!

At times I wonder at the stability of ISCEV. Our own field and related sciences from genetics to imaging have advanced in complexity almost beyond recognition. But there seems to be a real need for ISCEV to integrate the scientists and clinicians working on the structure and function of the visual system. I feel this most strongly when someone in a lab who is working alone to set up a new clinical electrodiagnostic service contacts me. ISCEV has recently expanded it's global membership with it's first ever members joining us from Ecuador, the United Arab Emirates and from Iran.



I hope you are reading this newsletter with us in the early November summer of Western Australia. If not I wish you a productive winter and hope to see you soon at an ISCEV event.

*Daphne L McCulloch, OD, PhD  
Secretary-General, ISCEV*

## Report of the Director of Education

The ISCEV teaching Course was held last year in association with the meeting in Abano Terme, and the scores from the participants who completed their assessment form were very high. Congratulations are due to the faculty which also included Drs Bach, Hogg, Hood, Kellner and Thompson. Thanks are due to Patrizia Tormene and her willing team for excellent local organisation, and also to the equipment companies for kindly donating time and energy to assist with the practical sessions. Patrizia's son is also thanked for enabling the splendid Course dinner at the winemaker's where he works.

At the time of writing we are very much looking forward to the forthcoming ISCEV meeting in Western Australia. The traditional ISCEV Course will take place with a faculty of Drs Bach, Hogg, Holder, Kellner, Poloschek and Thompson. In addition, there will be an animal Course organised by Dr Seeliger.

The annual Moorfields Course took place in March and was fully subscribed. The faculty included ISCEV

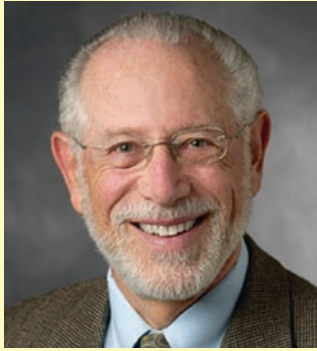
Members Drs Arden, Audo, Hogg, Heckenlively, Holder, Leroy, Neveu, Niemeyer, Robson (AG), and Thompson.

ISCEV members also ran a short Course at Euretina (Hawlina, Holder, Leroy), and there was an ISCEV approved Course run in Ljubljana by Dr Breclj (other ISCEV members speaking were Drs Hawlina, Holder, Sustar and Thompson)

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. Only then can details be published on the ISCEV web-site.

*Prof. Graham E Holder  
Director of Education  
Moorfields Eye Hospital  
June 2010*

## Report of the Director of Standards



The revised ERG Standard has been published, so hopefully everyone is on track with the changes of specific stimulation values and new (descriptive) terminology. The stronger flash is still recommended but now with more explanation on its application and a new figure for illustration. See our website for details!

All of the other standards will come up for revision in the next several years, so begin thinking of any concerns, suggestions, or points of discussion--and let me know if you have interest in participating on a core or corresponding committee for revising a standard.

The big new news is the establishment of a procedure for "Extended Protocols." This concept has been brought forth effectively by Eberhart Zrenner, who has worked for a number of years to find definable protocols for physiologic responses that are relevant to collaborative trials, drug testing, etc. ISCEV needs such protocols for trials, and also as guidance to members who may have a special patient for whom an S-cone response, or PhNR, is relevant (as it is hard to sort out the "best" procedure from the literature).

Because the ISCEV imprimatur has international significance, we take the designation of an ISCEV Extended Protocol seriously, and the intention is to apply it only to tests that have 1) shown proven value in clinical practice (i.e. is not just a new idea), 2) been evaluated by several independent groups (i.e. is not just work by one lab), and 3) a methodology agreed upon by a consensus of experienced groups (and after open ISCEV review). However, we still strongly encourage individual labs to develop, test, and publish new procedures--this is vital!

The Extended Protocols will allow new procedures, and those which do not have wide enough application yet to "standardize", to be developed into a definable protocol that will encourage more consistent and widespread use.

Finally, we will have an entire Session at the Perth ISCEV Symposium devoted to Standards and Extended Protocols. I hope that this will set a precedent to have such a session at future symposia, so that all can be informed--and all can contribute--to the important process of defining and standardizing our clinical electrophysiologic procedures. Please come, please comment, and please let me know of any ideas on improving this vital aspect of ISCEV.

Michael Marmor, MD  
Director of Standards

## The Editor: Documenta Ophthalmologica

This annual report for the Society's journal, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*, describes our successes in the past year, and emphasizes the critical need for more submissions from members and their colleagues. We are in the fifth year of using the web based "Editorial Manager TM", which continues to have improved functionality, making the publication process more user friendly and efficient. Please try it out! We are publishing six issues a year on time, with an additional issue, only online, for the annual meeting abstracts. The journal does not impose page charges and has free color illustrations, even in the hard copy, which is a real benefit, as many other journals are charging for color in the hard copy. There also is open access for all ISCEV Standards, Guidelines and Procedures that appear in regular issues.

The Associate Editors, Bach, Kondo and Brodie and the editorial board provide valuable support for the journal; the Case Report section is a valuable venue for clinicians' interesting observations that flourishes under Brodie's stewardship. Many members give generously of their time in reviewing manuscripts. Diana Epstein of Di-Ep Biomedical Editorial Services [Doc-oph@di-ep.com](mailto:Doc-oph@di-ep.com) ably administers the editorial office, fielding queries from authors, and keeps the online submission and review process running smoothly.

**Special issues:** A special issue on "Rat models for retinopathy of prematurity", handled by Fulton and Lachapelle was published in the January 2010 issue, and thanks to their hard work, it is a strong one, with review papers from their own labs, and from other leading labs in the field. These special issues elevate the value and visibility of the journal. It is important that we publish such issues on timely subjects on a yearly basis. Please do consider proposing an issue in your area of expertise. At present we have no such issues in the pipeline. We will work with you to process submissions so that contributors previously unfamiliar with the journal will be impressed with our ability to bring their work to readers in a timely manner.

**Logistics:** All accepted papers are being published online as soon as corrected proofs are ready, which can be within two to three weeks after acceptance. This quick timeline benefits the authors, the readers, and the journal. It should also help our impact factor which showed substantial improvement for 1999 (1.837 which is pretty good for a specialized journal such as *Documenta Ophthalmologica*). It is most important that we all cite, both in our journal and others in which we publish, the most recent versions of the ISCEV Standards Guidelines and Procedures, as well as other new papers that appear in the journal. We try to catch and replace outdated references before papers go to press in our own journal, but this must occur in all other journals as well. Please update your reference managers. For example, the new "ISCEV standard for clinical visual evoked potentials" appeared in the first issue published in 2010, and the "Standard for clinical electroretinography" appeared in 2009. Citations of those standards will still contribute to calculation of upcoming impact factors.

**Call for submission:** Far too few papers that are worthy of publication are being submitted to the journal, particularly in the Original Research and Technical Note categories. Quality breeds quality, it is up to you to give the journal strong research papers. Technical notes can provide the research community with unique resources. Functional assessments using electrodiagnostic techniques are a mainstay of vision research, and our journal should be the home for the definitive technical papers. To keep the journal strong, please decide to publish at least once a year in *Documenta Ophthalmologica*. The web address to use for submissions is: [www.editorialmanager.com/doop](http://www.editorialmanager.com/doop)

Laura J. Frishman, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief, *Documenta Ophthalmologica*



## Regional Reports

### Americas

It has been an eventful year for ISCEV members from the Americas. Many of us travelled to Padova and Abano Terme to enjoy the Annual ISCEV Symposium and the hospitality of Patrizia Tormene. In addition to contributing many of the best papers at the meeting, The US a-waves entry into the Olympic sailing event finished first thanks to the engineering of Anne Fulton and the hot air of Jonathan Lyons, Mitch Wolf, and Michael Birch. The Canadian team did not fare as well, although their costumes and entrance were memorable. Maybe next time they will Configurer leur voile selon le vent.

The ISCEV@ARVO meeting was another rousing meeting. This year we had the honor of having both ISCEV President Michael Bach and Secretary General Daphne McCollough present. The meeting featured 18 oral presentations highlighted (in my opinion) by John Robson's provocative presentation on his reanalysis of the a-wave origins. This was a foreshadowing of presentations to come in the meeting in Perth by John and our Guest Lecturer Trevor Lamb. The meeting was followed by a dinner at the Renaissance Hotel.

We look forward to hosting the 2011 annual symposium in Québec City organized by Pierre Lachapelle (for the 3rd time!) and his organizing committee Marc Hébert, Michelle Mckerral, Dave Saint Amour, Jacqueline Orquin, Marie-Sylvie Roy and François Tremblay. The meeting will feature lectures by Dr. Franco Lapore of the University of Montreal and Dr. Gerald Fishman of the University of Illinois Chicago, Eye and Ear Infirmary. Pierre is renowned in the ISCEV community for organizing innovative and exciting meetings in Canada and I am sure that this one will be no exception.

On a sad note, we lost some high profile ISCEV members from the Americas in the past year. Bill Dawson, former ISCEV VP of the Americas, recipient of the Adachi award in 2008 and Professor of Physiology and Ophthalmology at the University of Florida died 11 March 2010. We will miss Bill's insights into visual neurophysiology and his jolly disposition. Matt Severns died unexpectedly 13 April 2010. Matt was the principal engineer behind the very successful UTAS ERG systems from LKC Technology. Matt had a passion for life and for visual neuroscience and was a valued collaborator with such ISCEV notables as Mary Johnson, Jonathan Lyons and George Bresnick. Finally Velma Dobson Professor of Ophthalmology and Vision Science and Professor of Psychology at the University of Arizona, died 9 April 2010 following complications of ALS. Velma was a pioneer in the field of infant vision. Her PhD advisor at Brown University was Dr. Loren Riggs and during her Post-doctoral fellowship with Sam Sokol at Tufts New England Medical Center Velma did seminal studies on infant spatial vision using the pattern VEP. Velma's contribution to the understanding of infant vision, retinopathy of prematurity, and her influence in getting Teller acuity cards implemented widely in the assessment of infant vision will long be remembered.

*And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. – Abraham Lincoln*

*Every noble life leaves its fibre interwoven forever in the work of the world. – John Ruskin*

*Mitchell Brigell, PhD  
Vice-President for the Americas*



## Europe and Africa

This report, because of the lateness of this year's symposium, covers a longer period than usual. All of 2009 and the first half of 2010 are here. But, even allowing for this, there's an impressive amount of visual electrophysiology been going on. In our field, Europe is a busy place!

I must start by recalling that the ISCEV Symposium was in Europe in 2009 – in Padova, Italy, in July. And what a symposium it was! Organised by Dr Patrizia Tormene with a full scientific programme in an ISCEV- sized convention centre in Abano Terme, an excursion embracing Palladian history and the natural beauty of the Azzurian mountains, and culminating in a grand finale in the Aula Magna of Padova University, it was simply magnificent! But it has its own article in this Newsletter, so I won't go into any more detail here.

We have been active in three areas: national society meetings (BriSCEV), what I will term piggy-back meetings, in which an ISCEV-organised session/course is included in an existing international meeting (SOE, EVER, WOC) and a (very) special meeting.

First off, on 9 May 2009, was the *Society for the Exploration of Vision and Electrophysiology (SEVE) (French language)* which followed the SFO meeting at the Palais des Congres in Paris. The organiser, Martine Crochet, who is also the President of SEVE writes:

The SFO organises the most important annual meeting for ophthalmologists in continental Europe which gathers together more than 7000 delegates and more than 40 associations or societies during a busy week. About 150 people attended the SEVE meeting, happy to be together in a very convivial atmosphere in the City of Lights. This year the main theme was "the explorations in children" and the invited speaker, Ruth Hamilton (Glasgow) delighted the audience with her lecture about the maturation of the visual pathways application of VEPs in clinical practice...in French! The pediatric part was completed by presentations by Drs Drumare and Defoort-Dhellemmes from the SEVE Northern team (department of neuro-ophthalmology and exploration of vision Lille). Many other clinical presentations in paediatrics and adults followed and some new tools were presented by J. Charlier and Prof. Lachapelle. Dr Rosolen, a veterinary ophthalmologist presented the influence of aging of the ERG in dogs. Finally some clinical cases were discussed.

Next, during 9-12 June, an ISCEV-organised course and symposium were included in the *17th Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology* in Amsterdam. Jelka Breclj, who co organised the course, writes; "There were 4000 to 5000 ophthalmologists, residents, and other professionals from around the world with an interest in Ophthalmology."

The course was entitled 'Clinical electrophysiology of vision in paediatric practice' It was chaired by Daphne McCulloch (United Kingdom) and Jelka Breclj (Slovenia) who also gave lectures, along with Graham Holder (United Kingdom), Dorothy Thompson (United Kingdom) and Birgit Lorenz (Germany). The course demonstrated normal maturation of electroretinograms and visual evoked potentials and the appropriate clinical testing strategies for young patients. It aimed to enhance the efficiency of diagnosis and monitoring in paediatric retinal and neuro-ophthamologic conditions. The educational level of this course was intermediate and the interest of participants in this topic was demonstrated by the fact that it was back by request following its success at the SOE Vienna in 2007.

The symposium 'Recent developments in inherited retinal disease' was organized and chaired by Graham Holder (United Kingdom) and Bart Leroy (Belgium) and gave very important clinical and new perspectives on the role of electrophysiology through the medium of significant and well attended lectures by Bart Leroy (Belgiu), Graham Holder (United Kingdom) and Marko Hawlina (Slovenia).

It is always a pleasure to see that ISCEV is nowadays seen as a relevant contributor to the international community of Ophthalmology.

The 7th annual meeting of *BriSCEV (British Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision)* was held during 14-15 September in Sheffield. Its organiser, Lawrence Brown, writes:

The meeting began officially on Monday at Sheffield Hallam University, with a first for BriSCEV – an optional half-day course, covering photometry, calibration and normative data analysis, with a view to assisting BriSCEV towards achieving its goal of portable normative data for ISCEV standard tests. Despite the early start of 08:30, the course was attended by 30 delegates. The main meeting began after, and was attended by 62 delegates. There were fourteen oral presentations and eleven posters, many in keeping with the conference's theme of "Innovation: the Esoteric and Avant-garde", with novel ERGs and automated analysis techniques to the fore.



A very stimulating lecture (literally) on electromagnetic field effects was given by Professor Tony Barker, Consultant Clinical Scientist in Sheffield, and inventor of the World's first magnetic nerve stimulator. Tony introduced the audience to this fascinating modality by way of a live demonstration of direct peripheral nerve and cortical stimulation, making David Sculfor's hands move involuntarily without any physical contact or discomfort!

Following a sight-seeing trip on the 'Sheffield Wheel', Monday was rounded-off by a fine dinner, held in the Cutlers'



Hall – arguably the most prestigious venue in Sheffield, and used for many of the grandest civic and commercial events in the city and very much in the ISCEV tradition. Tuesday began with the popular Nitty-Gritty session, comprising three excellent and informative

short lectures by Dr. Jon Whittle, Dr. Helen Griffiths (both from the Royal Hallamshire Hospital), and Chris Hogg (Moorfields Eye Hospital) and this was followed by the second guest lecture, given on Tuesday morning by Professor Ian Rennie, from the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.

The meeting was rounded off by an afternoon of didactic posters and oral presentations and brought to a close with the awarding of the BriSCEV prize for the 'best first presentation', to Allannah Gafney of Cardiff University.

Full details from the BriSCEV website: [www.briscev.org.uk/briscev2009](http://www.briscev.org.uk/briscev2009)



As ever, ISCEV had a session at **EVER 2009 (European Association for Vision and Eye Research)**, in Portoroz, Slovenia during 29 September – 3 October, which was organised by myself and chaired by Pierre Lachapelle and Patrizia Tormene. The well received session comprised presentations from Eberhart Zrenner, Ido Perlman, Pierre Lachapelle, Marko Hawlina and Graham Holder.

Moving on to 2010 (and jumping ahead a bit to October), this seems a good place to remind you that we are back with ISCEV4EVER at EVER 2010, and this will be a very special year for ISCEV, and for electrophysiology of vision because, Graham Holder is President of EVER this year.

Now, back to sequence, and to the World Ophthalmological Congress, which was held in Berlin in June. An ISCEV session, entitled **Use of Electrophysiological Methods in Acquired Retinal and Optic Nerve Diseases** was organised there by Marko Hawlina, and featured presentations by Marko himself, Ulrich Kellner, Thomas Meigen, Michael Bach and Graham Holder.

Following the WOC, Thomas Berninger, John Heckenlively and Chris Hogg hosted a meeting in the elegant Kardinal Wendel Haus in the Schwabing district of Munich to celebrate Geoffrey Arden's 80th birthday. 120 scientific delegates attended the meeting, along with 35 accompanying persons. The topic of the symposium was **Function Meets Morphology**. Co-organiser Chris Hogg writes:

Current imaging systems allow the ophthalmologist a nearly as good a visualisation of the structure of the retina as histology, but, we don't always know the functional correlates of changes seen in the OCT image. The idea of this symposium was therefore to bring together leading electrophysiologists with morphologists and experts in imaging techniques. The meeting commenced with an introduction by Helga Kolb on the structure of the retina; she was followed by Paul Sieving, who gave a fascinating and lucid insight to the present status and future of the gene therapy. Subsequently Yozo Miyake gave a marvellous overview of the focal ERG. We learnt a lot about the pigment epithelium (Olaf Strauss), the presence and future of new imaging techniques (Peter Ahnelt, Anselm Kampik, Marko Hawlina, Hannes Wildberger). Eberhard Zrenner demonstrated the importance of the electrophysiology for the control of the retina implants in human. The meeting ended with two highlights. Alan Bird reported on cell death in geographic atrophy, and finally Geoffrey Arden presented a most impressive new therapy of diabetic retinopathy.

Beside the inspiring two and half days of science, the meeting included the usual ISCEV inspired social program, culminating in a gala dinner at which Professor Sven-Erik Nilsson gave an entertaining talk on Geoffrey's career. In summary, we celebrated two days of good science and socialising in the best ISCEV tradition!



And, with thanks to all contributors what better note to end my report of ISCEV in Europe this year!

*Prof Colin Barber PhD  
Vice-president for Europe & Africa*

## Asia and Oceania

The 57th annual meeting of JSCEV was held at Urayasu, Japan on Oct. 30 and 31, 2009 organized by Atsushi Mizota. Within this meeting, we had a symposium named "2009 Korea-Japan Joint Symposium of Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision", which was the first joint symposium between KSCEV and JSCEV. The session titles were "Electrophysiology for diagnosis and treatment in ocular disease" chaired by Drs. Kim and Naoi and "Gene and electrophysiology of vision" chaired by Drs. Ohn and Kondo. More than 200 Japanese doctors and 19 Korean doctors attended this meeting. Next joint symposium will be 2011 in Korea organized by Professor Ohn.

In 2010, in April, the Singapore National Eye Center hosted a one-day course in clinical electrophysiology and featured regional ISCEV members from Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia as faculty members. In September, ISCEV members put together a clinical visual electrophysiology symposium during the Joint Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology / American Academy of Ophthalmology congress in Beijing. The symposium was chaired by Prof. Masayuki Horiguchi (Japan), Prof. Michael Marmor (USA) and Prof. Zhengqin Yin (China). The symposium was a great success with nine presentations by ISCEV members from six different countries.

The 58th JSCEV meeting will be at Iwate, Japan at Oct 8 and 9, 2010 and this will be reported in next year's ISCEV Newsletter.

*Atsushi Mizota, MD and Timothy Lai*



*After the welcome party of board members of KSCEV and JSCEV at Tokyo Disneyland on Oct. 30, Halloween*



*From left to right Dr. Ohn's wife, Dr. Ohn from Korea, Dr. Machida from Japan and Dr. Kim from Korea. Background is the entrance gate of Tokyo Disneyland*

# Recollections of a Symposium: ISCEV 2009



The 47th ISCEV Symposium was held in Italy. Delegates (224 persons) and accompanying people (44 persons) from 35 countries converged on the Congress Centre of the pleasant spa town of Abano Terme, a town founded in the Roman period, and on Padova, seat of one of the oldest Universities in Europe.

The two days before the Symposium were spent on a “Human Basic” course, much appreciated by the numerous participants (59), who greatly enjoyed the excellent social programme which included dinner at “Dominio di Bagnoli” a historic winery in a magnificent 17th century Venetian villa: Palazzo Widmann Borletti.

## Scientific Program



During the 5-day conference many invited lecturers spoke: Prof. Edoardo Midena talked on “Injecting the eye: Neurosensory retina and intravitreal drugs for degenerative retinal diseases” and Dr Enrico

Maria Surace opened the first ISCEV “Special Session” dedicated to Ocular Genetics with “The Development of retinal gene therapy: strategies for translational research”. The Keynote lecture, “Environmental stimulation and visual cortical plasticity”, was given by Prof Lamberto Maffei.

There were 11 sessions with speakers, two of which were dedicated to the main themes: “Non standard stimuli: their contribution to modern electrophysiology” and “New therapies – from photoreceptor to glaucoma”; two poster sessions with a total of 72 oral presentations, 99 posters and one “clinical case” session. We were greeted by both the Paduan Authorities (Civic and the University) in the historic main hall of the University of Padova, and heard the Emiko Adachi Award Lecture, given by Prof. Guenter Niemeyer. He spoke on “A vision of electrophysiology” leading us through the results of a long career spent in research.

## Social Program



There was a rich and varied social programme for both delegates and accompanying persons.

The welcome cocktail was in the “rotonda” in central Abano.

During the “Pizza-Ballo” evening, we learned to dance the Tarantella with the help of the Acquaviva Orchestra and a teacher, Stefania, and then watched a bachatango performance.

We visited the centre of Vicenza, the Teatro Olimpico and Villa Capra (the Rotonda) both well known works by local architect, Andrea



Palladio. Then ended with an elegant dinner in the grounds of Villa Beatrice d'Este, perched high above the Paduan plain on the summit of Monte Gemola, which afforded us a grandstand view of a spectacular sunset and then of the full moon: a perfect backdrop to the evening.



The traditional Olympic competition this year was a contest between rather improbable “Maritime Republics” who arrived at the regatta with floating vessels of every shape and form that they had to propel without touching

the boat or using any mechanical means.

Group photos, farewell cocktails and the, as usual, slightly slapstick prize-giving ceremony for the winners of the Olympics were held in the Palazzo della Ragione, the economic, political and administrative centre of Medieval Padua.

During their stay accompanying persons explored the Colli Euganei (Euganean Hills) for one day, travelling along the strada dei vini (road of wines) with its numerous ‘culinary’ stop-offs; paid a visit to the medieval village of Arquà Petrarca; to the 17th century alchemic gardens of Valsanzibio; to the 11th century Benedictine Abbey in Praglia and, last but not least, to the City of Padua itself.



Among the free time activities offered were: a (slightly damp) performance of Bizet's Carmen at the Arena di Verona (115 participants) ... a night time visit to the Cappella degli Scrovegni (Scrovegni Chapel) frescoed by Giotto (21) and ... a day in Venice (65 persons).

For three days after the end of the conference the intrepid ISCYCLISTS did their own Giro di North East Italia: starting from the Venice Lagoon they rode through the foothills of the Alps and arrived at Lake Garda!

I hope the hand-painted souvenir spoon rest still makes you smile as you remember the great days we spent together and the fine food and excellent Italian wines we shared.

Thank you everyone.

See the Photo gallery on [www.iscev2009.org/iscev2009](http://www.iscev2009.org/iscev2009)



*Alma Patrizia  
Tormene  
Chairperson ISCEV  
47<sup>th</sup> Symposium  
Padova-Abano  
Terme 6-10 July  
2009*





Günter Niemeyer, MD, Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Neurophysiology at the University of Zürich, Switzerland was the fourth ISCEV member to be honoured with the Emiko Adachi award. Recipients the Emiko Adachi award represent a distinguished group of ISCEV members who have, as stated in the guidelines, demonstrated “a record of outstanding service to ISCEV over a long period” and have made “a significant scientific contribution to clinical electrophysiology of vision.” Professor Niemeyer, a longstanding and dedicated member of ISCEV, an accomplished scientist, clinician and artist as well, received this very special award in 2008,

A distinct benefit of the Emiko Adachi award is that the recipient is asked to lecture to the attendees of the annual symposium in the year following the announcement of the winner. These lectures provide a unique opportunity for the members of ISCEV to learn about the recipient's life and work, as well as to share pleasant memories evoked by the more historical portions of the presentation. Professor Niemeyer's lecture, appropriately entitled, “A vision of electrophysiology”, was presented at the close of the 2009 XLVII ISCEV symposium in the historic and majestic surroundings of Aula Magna Palazzo Bo at the University of Padova. His inspiring lecture took the audience on a journey that provided a “vision” not only of his science, but also of his work as a clinician, a mentor to many young clinicians and scientists, and as an artist who documented in sketches and etchings, his thoughts and his surroundings.

Professor Niemeyer's neurophysiological experiments analyzed fundamental functional aspects of the retina. These investigations were based largely on electrophysiological results from studies of the intact mammalian eye (mainly of the cat) using a perfused eye preparation. This preparation required refined surgical techniques to set it up properly, and allowed unique control over the physiological status of the eye while at the same time excluding systemic regulatory or compensatory mechanisms. In his fellowship training in the early 1970s at the USA National Eye institute (NEI) in the laboratory of Professor Peter Gouras, he perfected his use of the preparation, and gained mastery over technical aspects of neurophysiological recording, and the sophisticated instrumentation required, that would serve him well over his career. While at NEI he was the first to achieve intracellular recordings in horizontal cells, published in 1973. Over the years in his own laboratory, set up in 1973 at University of Zürich, he carried out many studies of retinal function, from pigment epithelial responses to optic nerve potentials.

The control over arterial perfusion afforded by the perfused eye preparation allowed Professor Niemeyer and his graciously hosted collaborators and students from around the world to undertake a range of pharmacological experiments using agonists and antagonists of then putative retinal neurotransmitters and neuromodulators. These experiments provided novel insights about the actions of transmitters and modulators at various stages of retinal processing. He also carried out metabolic studies, which included observations of the remarkable sensibility of the rod system to changes in the supply of glucose to the eye. These and other investigations were extended to include histochemical identification of retinal cells and the location of critical substances such as glycogen in the tissue. A review of Professor Niemeyer's extensive studies

of the intact mammalian retina, which includes many of the informative and aesthetically pleasing illustrations of equipment and research findings that the audience enjoyed in Padova, can be found in an article entitled, “Retinal research using the perfused mammalian eye published in 2001 in *Progress in Eye and Retinal Research* (20(3):289-318). In addition to his basic science studies in the isolated eye, Professor Niemeyer also carried out clinical electrophysiological studies of patients with retinal disorders, and extended his work to studies of transgenic mice and murine disease models as these became available.

Professor Niemeyer received his medical degree from the University of Hamburg/Germany. He did a residency in Ophthalmology and postgraduate work in the Department of Ophthalmology, University Hospital Zürich which was later to become his home, and he trained in physiology in the Department of Physiology University of Berne. After returning to the University of Zürich from his fellowship at NEI and setting up his laboratory, he moved through the ranks from Privat Dozent to Professor of Ophthalmology and Neurophysiology and member of Medical Faculty in 1980. For many years he was the Director of the Neurophysiology Laboratory and Clinical ERG Laboratory at the University. He taught physiology, and electrodiagnostic procedures to medical students and residents and trained several of them in research. He also taught in basic science courses in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, England, Japan and has been a valued member of teaching staff of International course in Electrophysiology of Vision at Moorfields Eye Hospital London for more than a decade. He forged many scientific collaborations and took sabbaticals in the labs of Professor Roy Steinberg at the University of California in San Francisco and V. Alder at the Univ. of Western Australia. During these sabbaticals he carried out research projects, but also found the time to make sketches of the nearby coastal regions to add to his portfolio.

Professor Niemeyer has been a steady contributor to ISCEV symposia for decades, making nearly annual presentations, both submitted and invited, in the scientific and clinical sessions. He served on the ISCEV board, and was the society's Vice President for Europe for eight years. He also was on the editorial board of the society's affiliate journal, *Documenta Ophthalmologica* for several years, and was awarded honorary membership in the society in 2003. He was active in, and assumed leadership roles in several other societies as well. He was a member of the scientific advisory board of the International Retinitis Pigmentosa Association and president of the scientific and medical advisory board of the Swiss Retinitis Pigmentosa Association. He was a member for many years and president of the scientific board of Swiss Ophthalmological Society, and he served on ophthalmology journal editorial boards, and as an expert reviewer for a range of other scientific journals.

Professor Niemeyer has won many awards for his science and his service, among them, the Albrecht v. Graefe Award from the German Ophthalmological Society, the Vogt Prize and (shared) Chibret prize from the Swiss Ophthalmological Society, the Götz Prize from the University of Zürich and the (shared) Pabst Italian Ophthalmological Society Research award. He received honorary memberships from the Italian Ophthalmological society and Retina Swiss.

We congratulate Professor Niemeyer for receiving the Emiko Adachi award, and join with those who previously acknowledged his efforts, in thanking him for his many scientific contributions to the clinical electrophysiology of vision, to the profession of Ophthalmology and to the improved “vision” of many patients, students and friends. We look forward to his presentation at the XLVIIIth ISCEV symposium in Fremantle Western Australia, and to future opportunities to enjoy his company and to appreciate his artwork.

*Laura J. Frishman, Ph.D.*



## In Memoriam:

Since our 2009 newsletter, ISCEV has lost three distinguished and active members.



### **William Woodson Dawson (1933-2010)**

Prof William Woodson Dawson was elected as honorary ISCEV member, for his distinguished scientific career and outstanding service throughout his 39 years of ISCEV membership. Prof Dawson's obituary is published in the ISCEV journal, *Documenta Ophthalmologica* (2010) 121(1)



### **Matthew L Severns (1953-2010)**

Matthew L. Severns died shortly after surgery on April 13th 2010. As both a scientist and as a representative of specialist manufacturing (LKC technologies), he was an invaluable member of ISCEV working parties and committees. His research left a legacy of science, innovation and education in ERG methodology and applications to a range of ocular conditions. Matt was a wonderful character, a collaborator, verifier, and

encourager to colleagues and friends. He expressed an excitement and enthusiasm about data: to see what it had to offer, to make sense of it, and to do this with integrity and honesty. That's the way he approached everything with optimism and caring. He was admired by colleagues and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with his wife, Amy Lindsey and the three children.



### **Angelika M Shamshinova (1937-2009)**

On October 4th 2009 a dear friend to all of us, Professor Angelika Shamshinova, passed away. Angelika was a shining figure in Russian electrophysiological for almost half a century. She first joined ISCEV in 1989, and was an almost constant presence at ISCEV meetings all around the world, and attracted many young collaborators to ISCEV. She organised the first electrophysiological diagnostic centre in Cuba and supervised innumerable young researchers. Her career was notable for her initiatives and innovations in ophthalmologic, electrophysiological and psychophysical research. She had more than 250 publications, 4 handbooks and 2 monographs – one of them in Spanish and was still publishing this year. In 2005 she was awarded the title of "Honoured Doctor of the Russian Federation". A real professional she constantly searched for new instruments to study pathogenesis of retinal diseases. Angelika was immensely proud of her supportive family: daughter Victoria, son-in-law Dmitry and two grandsons Michail and Alexey.

## Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award

The Eberhard Dodt Memorial honours an outstanding young scientist and presenter at the ISCEV Annual International Symposium. Mrs. Elke Dodt, widow of Prof. Dodt and founder of the award, presented this award at the 49th Symposium in Padova, Italy:

Most honoured prize winner, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

When a congress of the ISCEV takes place in the Euganean Hills, one of the jewels of the Vento, closely connected with the University of Padua, it is impossible not to think of the great Italian Scientist Galileo Galilei, who taught at that University for eighteen years as Professor of Mathematics – the more so since this founder of modern experimental scientific research, with his improvements in telescope technique, which occurred exactly 400 years ago, was closely linked to optical physics. After all, we are concerned here, today, with the clinical electrophysiology of vision.

We all know that on a gravestone the sentence, “Traces of you remain”, is generally to be understood metaphorically: sooner or later what is past will be gone with the wind... expect – and that is what I would like to place at the forefront of this Laudatio – that a person’s name and achievements can carry on having an effect after death, for example by the support for younger follow-scientists. This has been made possible by the generous donations made by colleagues and former pupils of my husband, which have provided the capital basis for the Eberhard-Dodt-Prize. Through donations and the proceeds of benefit concerts, the most recent two weeks ago, I have been able to secure and enlarge this capital.

So far the Eberhard-Dodt-Prize has been awarded thirteen times during the annual ISCEV Symposium and I have had the honour of presenting it in person in eight of these occasions. It is a great pleasure for me to be able once more to carry out the presentation in person. For me this is my late husband’s legacy.

Supporting young scientists was always close to his heart and this continues to be associated with his name.

As you know, this prize is intended to be a stimulus for young scientific researchers in the sphere of clinical electrophysiology of vision on their path, which involves great exertions but promises success, to increased scientific knowledge. This year is the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, while his magnum opus, “On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection”, was published one hundred and fifty years ago.

This ought to remind us – regardless of the controversial debate between evolutionary biologists and creationists – of his work on the complexity of the eye and of present-day findings, from the light-sensitive eye-spots in marine bristle worms to the highly complicated eye-lenses of vertebrates that varying perception of light has an advantage to favour survival.

“More research – see better” is the motto of the Neuro-ophthalmological Society, which also administers the Eberhard-Dodt-Foundation. This is entirely in the spirit of the Italian saying which I quoted previously for the prize-winner in 2007: “Chi sa ha dieci occhi, chi non sa è cieco affatto”, “He who knows something has ten eyes, he who knows nothing is completely blind”. This doubly appropriate: it puts in front of our eyes the fact that the enlargement of our knowledge makes us “see” – in this case, the findings of research offer the possibility of healing, specifically to alleviate eye-disease or even to cure it. Thus the jury has this year, after considering several very good pieces of work, judged your research contribution, Dr. Charlotte M. Poloschek to be especially worthy of the prize. I hereby present you with the Eberhard-Dodt-Prize for 2009, with warmest congratulations: I wish you in your future professional career inventiveness, happiness and success!

July 2009-07-24

Elke Dodt



*This year's winner of the Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award, Dr Charlotte Poloschek, is also a musician, seen here with the Freiburg ophthalmic band.*

Congratulations to the prizewinner Dr. Charlotte M. Poloschek, MD. Her award-winning presentation was entitled “Give-and-take: the geneticist needs the electrophysiologist but we need the geneticist, too!”

With the nascence of genetic therapies for congenital eye diseases it has become especially important to guide the genetic investigations towards likely mutation locations. Dr. Poloschek demonstrated combinations of electrophysiologic and imaging techniques to optimize the strategies to narrow on the search for mutation loci. Her own

contributions to this field include genotype-phenotype correlations in choroideremia, cone-rod dystrophy, macular dystrophy and in monogenetic and genetic modifier-based diseases. In such conditions, electrophysiologic techniques are crucial to characterize retinal function and thus pinpoint

pathophysiologic mechanisms. Dr. Poloschek started with the multifocal ERG in her MD thesis with Frank Holz in Heidelberg, then went to work with Erich Sutter in San Francisco for a 1 ½-year spell of pure science, followed by a year with Brigitte Lorenz in Regensburg. Now I enjoy a long-standing co-operation with her in Freiburg. Currently she holds a position as consultant in the section Neuro-ophthalmology / Pediatric ophthalmology in the Ophthalmic Department of the University of Freiburg, Germany.

From a strong field of 34 young presenters, the Adjudication Panel selected four additional young scientist to commended for the especially high quality of their presentations: Audrey-Ann Éthier and Caroline Jacques from Montréal Canada, Tobias Röck from Tübingen, Germany and Lucia Ziccardi from Bethesda, USA.

*We thank the numerous assessors for their careful scoring and especially thank Ruth Hamilton, Convener of the Adjudication Panel, for relentlessly crossing all Ts and dotting to Is to furnish the panel with complete information.*

Michael Bach PhD, ISCEV President





### An Invitation to Québec for the LIXISCEV International Symposium

Dear members of the ISCEV family,

Eastern Canada ISCEV members are honored to welcome you to our part of the world for the 2011 ISCEV Symposium, to be held from 19–23 September, 2011. For this third reunion of the ISCEV family on Canadian soil we have chosen to host you in the vicinity of the beautiful Québec City. As stated on the official website [www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/EN/touristes/connaitre/portrait/index.aspx](http://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/EN/touristes/connaitre/portrait/index.aspx) of Québec City: “Québec City is 400 years old. It boasts four centuries of history marked by encounters with the First Nations, battles between the French and English, terrible epidemics, and by the acts of the men and women our streets are named after today; four centuries during which Québec has grown into the city we know and love, forging a character all its own built around a thriving culture, economic success, urban transformation, neighborhood life, and the French language”. Clearly one cannot think of more appropriate grounds to host the 2011 annual ISCEV scientific debates as well as the already eagerly awaited ISCEV Olympiads. The meeting will be held at the Manoir St-Castin, in the Lac Beauport area, which is located 30 minutes north of downtown Québec, [www.hotelsvillegia.com/villegia\\_stcastin/pages-eg](http://www.hotelsvillegia.com/villegia_stcastin/pages-eg).

Other smaller hotels and Inns will be added to accommodate all budgets.

**TENTATIVE SOCIAL PROGRAM:** Although we are still at the exploration stage, social activities (pre, post and during symposium) may include the followings : Autumn’s flamboyant foliage, whale watching. The months of September and October are a good time for whale watching: the whales tend to be both numerous and active [www.tadoussac.com/EN/tourismeeng/cruises](http://www.tadoussac.com/EN/tourismeeng/cruises) migration of the snow geese [www.chaudiereappalaches-travelguide.com/La-Cote-du-Sud/Centre-des-migrations](http://www.chaudiereappalaches-travelguide.com/La-Cote-du-Sud/Centre-des-migrations) visit to Old Quebec, Ste-Anne river canyon [[www.canyonste-anne.qc.ca/ENG/home](http://www.canyonste-anne.qc.ca/ENG/home)] lunch and ISCEV picture at the Montmorency waterfalls [www.sepaq.com/ct/pcm/en](http://www.sepaq.com/ct/pcm/en) dinner with the Huron Indians [www.huron-wendat.qc.ca/01/en/index](http://www.huron-wendat.qc.ca/01/en/index) or a gourmet bicycle tour of l’Île d’Orléans [www.iledorleans.com/eng/tourisme-ile-dorleans.asp](http://www.iledorleans.com/eng/tourisme-ile-dorleans.asp) and many more.

*The ISCEV 2011 team (Michelle McKerral, Jacqueline Orquin, Marie Sylvie Roy, Marc Hébert, Dave St-Amour, François Tremblay and Pierre Lachapelle)*



PLAZA DE LA VIRGEN \ VISTA NOCTURNA 1

### Sunday 3th to Thursday 7th, June 2012

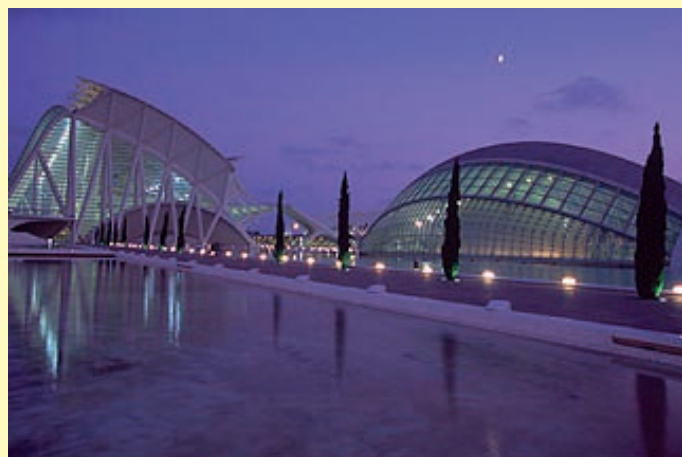
We are delighted to invite you to Valencia, a city that looks to the future persevering remnants of its glorious past, is situated in the centre of the Spanish Mediterranean coastline. It overlooks the spacious Gulf of Valencia

The Symposium is timed on Spring, (21°C. average temperature), will be perfect to enjoy the best of our ancient monuments in the old city interspersed with some of the most spectacular and imaginative ninth and tenth century architecture.

**ISCEV 2012:** The symposium will be held at the Mediterranean Ophthalmological foundation <http://www.fom.es>, ideally located, It is close to the international airport at Manises and has excellent links into the city centre by metro and bus.

**Accommodation:** More than 17,000 hotel rooms, dozens of leading and unique spaces, continuously increasing flight connections and an internationally renowned name. Valencia has established itself as one of the best cities to host congresses.

**Access:** Valencia is very well connected by air not only to Europe but to the rest of the world. Easily accessible from major Spanish and European cities. Main routes: A-3 Motorway (Madrid-Valencia) and the Mediterranean Motorway AP-7 (connects with Barcelona and the European network of motorways).

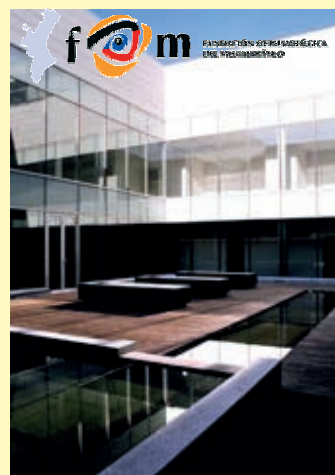


L'HEMISFÈRIC - MUSEU 1

### Hospitality and Social programme:

The programme of activities and outings will help you to discover Spanish culture, we would like to share with you our 2000 years of history. Medieval towers, Gothic cathedrals, renaissance palaces, programme of activities and outings will help you to discover Spanish culture.

Also will invite you to discover the delights of the rich flavours of the Mediterranean Gastronomy, and the most important green areas of the city including the Turia Gardens that cross the city, the Glorieta, with the centenary ficus, the Botanical garden whose origin dates back to the XVI century. Finally a visit to the The Roman theatre of Sagunto that dates from the first century and was built within a dip in the land.



**More Information:** <http://www.turisvalencia.es>  
<http://www.aboutvalencia.com/>  
<http://www.valenciavalencia.com/>

**Invitation:** Dr. Concha Vilela and the Mediterranean Ophthalmological foundation

**E-mail:** [vilela\\_con@gva.es](mailto:vilela_con@gva.es)



# ISCEV Newsletter Supplement



## Treasurer's Report

Dear ISCEV members

the accompanying spreadsheet displays the financial data for 2004 – 2009 and an estimate for 2010. The figures are given in EURO, as all funds except for the US Dollar account are held in EURO. The accounting and tax records must be reported in EURO as well. The loss in 2009 is mostly due to the increased financing of travel grants and lab visits. Some of the lab visits that have been granted in the 2008 were paid in 2009. In addition, depending on the dates of payment, Symposium return, Symposium financing and Secretray general office costs are variable between years as can be seen.

The income and expenditure for 2010 has been calculated cautiously. The membership is stable over the years (last line, as usual I expect about 20 members still to pay for this year). The income from membership dues has been decreasing in recent years due to the reduced exchange rate between EURO and USD. Funding for travel grants and ISCEV sponsored lab visits have increased and will reduce ISCEV's assets, which in a moderate way is reasonable for a scientific non-profit organisation.

**Looking forward to see you in Fremantle**

*Ulrich Kellner, MD  
Treasurer of ISCEV*

### Treasurers Report (Euro)

	2004 closed	2005 closed	2006 closed	2007 closed	2008 closed	2009 closed	2010 estimated
<b>Income</b>							
Membership dues	29.227,95	27.138,00	33.943,97	28.090,23	23.855,55	23.521,15	22.500,00
Symposium income through treasurers office	0,00	28.638,16	5.440,89	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Bank account interests	1.493,39	1.102,97	2.172,38	3.252,53	2.887,38	1.785,54	1.500,00
Publisher editorial payment	8.264,17	3.975,00	6.846,85	10.829,44	5.775,25	6.738,15	6.158,80
Symposium return (income & returned pre-financing)	0,00	19.128,63	22.343,00	0,00	0,00	1.919,79	0,00
Other income	0,00	500,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38.985,51</b>	<b>80.482,76</b>	<b>70.747,09</b>	<b>42.172,20</b>	<b>32.518,18</b>	<b>33.964,63</b>	<b>30.158,80</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Check handling fees, bank charges	1.468,13	532,17	413,83	221,99	119,35	132,60	200,00
Credit card handling fees	1.347,27	2.558,88	1.992,41	1.540,32	1.404,16	1.190,20	1.800,00
Internet services	1.135,26	162,58	569,55	213,54	569,96	212,96	600,00
Lawyer	3.297,32	131,10	139,20	0,00	0,00	0,00	200,00
Accounting	0,00	1.044,00	696,00	714,00	357,00	0,00	850,00
Secretary general office	4.697,91	4.227,60	14.828,00	2.587,20	9.295,54	4.203,40	4.500,00
Treasurers office	255,27	540,62	735,49	1.039,31	0,00	0,00	800,00
Editors office	4.098,00	1.062,50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Publishing DOOP	27.825,00	31.561,50	26.999,50	26.250,00	26.250,00	26.250,00	26.248,71
Symposium financing	44.095,50	46.302,48	12.776,57	7.363,23	1.980,26	9.087,03	5.000,00
Travel grants	2.904,85	2.457,20	2.893,12	3.499,28	4.870,38	6.990,00	8.000,00
Lab visits	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1.463,19	6.343,81	5.000,00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>91.124,51</b>	<b>90.580,63</b>	<b>62.043,67</b>	<b>43.428,87</b>	<b>46.309,84</b>	<b>54.410,00</b>	<b>53.198,71</b>
<b>Balance</b>							
Total Income - Total Expenditure	-52.139,00	-10.097,87	8.703,42	-1.256,67	-13.791,66	-20.445,37	-23.039,91
<b>Assets (as of 31.12.200x)</b>							
USD Account	906,73	12.591,99	12.888,32	6.266,13	3.958,97	837,38	500,00
EURO Account	6.402,89	12.765,81	22.492,33	35.278,37	28.940,95	9.544,35	18.000,00
Deposit	136.394,27	108.624,58	107.122,08	99.701,48	101.425,24	101.385,41	70.000,00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>143.703,89</b>	<b>133.982,38</b>	<b>142.502,73</b>	<b>141.245,98</b>	<b>134.325,16</b>	<b>111.767,14</b>	<b>88.500,00</b>
<b>Members (paid, honorary &amp; emeritus)</b>							
	276	264	282	285	267	270	256

# 2009 Membership Meeting Minutes

## 1 Opening Welcome & Report of the President

The President opened the meeting and welcomed ISCEV members. He congratulated new Board member Mathias Seeliger (Member-at-large), returning member, Michael Marmor (Director of Standards), and those re-elected to a second term on the ISCEV Board of Directors: Colin Barber, David Keating and Masayuki Horiguchi.

## 2 Minutes of the 2008 ISCEV Membership Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the 2008 ISCEV Membership Meeting as printed in the ISCEV 2008 Newsletter (NL) were adopted as a true record.

2.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 3 Report from the 2008 Symposium Organiser:

Dr Patricia Tormene gave a warm welcome to ISCEV and reported that the symposium had 274 participants and 174 scientific presentations.

## 4 ISCEV Officers' Updates and discussion of the reports printed in the 2006 NL

4.1 **Exoneration of the Treasurer's Report (2009 NL)** the report was unanimously exonerated by a vote of the members.

4.2 The honorary auditors, ISCEV members who oversee the accounts of the society, are due for re-appointment. As there were four nominations an election was held by show of hands; Karen Holopigian and David Sculfor were elected to serve as auditors (2010-2014).

4.3 **Matters arising from the reports of the other ISCEV officers in the 2009 NL** The Editor updated her printed report with the news that the 3-year Impact factor of Documenta Ophthalmologica improved from 1.1 in 2008 to 1.837 in 2009 and is now #22 in the list of 49 Ophthalmology journals. She thanked authors, reviewers, and those citing recent papers in our journal for this turn-around. Other reports were accepted as printed in the NL without discussion.

## 5 Highlights of the ISCEV Board of Directors Meeting

5.1 The Board discussed a mechanism for the approval of extended protocols. These are intended to provide rigorous specifications for well-established specialized procedures for applications such as clinical trials and non-standard diagnostic tests. Guidelines for applicants based on the Board discussions are in preparation. [Note: In Nov 2009, the approved Guidelines were circulated and posted on our website.]

5.2 The format of further ISCEV International Symposia is under review. Colin Barber volunteered to chair a working party to gather input from symposium organizers and from the ISCEV membership as the first step in this review.

The Board nominated Prof William W Dawson for an honorary membership of ISCEV.

## 6 Report of the ISCEV Awards Committee:

6.1 The committee awarded **eight full travel grants** (4 regional and 4 overseas) and 4 additional special grants (2 regional and 2 overseas) in order to support the high number of well-qualified applicants.

6.2 **ISCEV grants for Extended Laboratory Visits:** the committee noted the high quality of sponsored visits in 2008. The 2009 grants were awarded for visitor T Meigen to Profs Frishman & Ridder in Houston/Los Angeles (Lateral interactions in the retina in monkeys and mice), visitor Rodrigues to Dr Kremers in Erlangen, Germany (Chromatic adaptation in the ERG) and visitor Anastasakis to

Prof Holder in London, UK (Desferral toxicity in thalassaemia).

## 7 ISCEV Standards:

### 7.1 ISCEV Standard for VEPs (2009 update):

J. Vernon Odom, committee chair, presented highlights of a final draft, as previously circulated to the ISCEV members. After discussion this was accepted by the members present subject to minor corrections. [Doc Ophthalmol 2010;120:111-119]

### 7.2 ISCEV Technical Guidelines:

The 2003 ISCEV Guidelines for calibration of stimulus and recording parameters have proved difficult to update owing to the diversity of topics and the need for guidelines suitable for all standard tests and a range of instruments. During this Symposium, John Robson, committee chair, held a meeting with interested ISCEV members. It was decided to subdivide the topic into a series of ISCEV Technical Guidelines.

### 7.3 ISCEV approval of extended protocols:

Eberhard Zrenner, chair held a meeting of the extended protocols group in which the priorities and sub-groups. Several protocols are at an advanced stage of development and these will be updated on the ISCEV wiki site for input and prepared for submission (see item 5.2).

## 8 Elections

8.1 Prof. William W Dawson was unanimously elected as an honorary member.

8.2 **ISCEV Board of Directors:** for 2009-2012 terms of office:

8.2.1 Treasurer: There were no nominations; Ulrich Kellner agreed to stand for a exceptional third term and was unanimously re-elected.

The following were re-elected unopposed for their second term of office:

8.2.2 Documenta Ophthalmologica Editor-in-Chief: Laura Frishman.

8.2.3 Director of Education: Graham E Holder

8.2.4 Member-at-Large: Marko Hawlina

## 9 Future ISCEV International Symposia

9.1 Enid Chelva presented plans for the XLVIII ISCEV Symposium in Perth, Australia 6-10 Nov 2010. The symposium themes "Electrophysiology, genetics and imaging in retinal disease" and "Stimulus paradigms in multifocal electrophysiology" were announced.

9.2 The planned venue for the XLIX Symposium (2011) had to be withdrawn. Invitations from the Americas were announced with formal invitations deferred to the postal vote. [Note: Formal invitations were from Amelia Island, Florida, USA and Quebec City, Canada.]

9.3 50th ISCEV Symposium (2012, Europe/Africa): Attractive invitations were presented from Ljubljana, Slovenia, Valencia, Spain and Liverpool, UK. The members present voted by secret ballot for Ljubljana and Valencia to go forward to the postal ballot by all members.

9.4 The SG has been notified of the intention to invite ISCEV to Chongqing, China – Zheng Qin Yin, to Singapore – Audrey Chia and to Seoul, South Korea – Young-Hoon Ohn in 2013.

Without other business the meeting closed at 18:36.

*Daphne L McCulloch*  
Secretary-general