

## From the President

Dear friends and colleagues,

Time flies and here we are again with our annual meeting in the newsletter. It is time to balance the book. So many things have happened and now, looking back on everything, I realise how things can change slowly, yet radically.

By my side there is a new secretary general. Ruth Hamilton has passed the torch to Karen Holopigian. I have worked with great pleasure with Ruth, with her, even the most difficult things became easy. The changeover has been really smooth, and gradual. Ruth is always there, and Karen has the competences and the desire to continue the work, offering us her enthusiasm, patience and new ideas. She is truly a wonderful new secretary general. I would like to thank both these friends for being here.

Some are leaving the board and some have taken on new tasks: Tony Robson has become director of standards, taking over from Daphne McCulloch, who has masterfully overseen the new updates of EOG, VEP and ERG standards. Tony Robson has taken up his new tasks with enthusiasm and new revisions are going ahead fast, thanks also to the commitment of many experts from the society in many fields.

The standards have been much appreciated and are becoming an international point of reference when carrying out electrofunctional examinations. However, the increasing spread of our speciality has also been helped by the numerous courses that are now being held worldwide. Indeed, in this newsletter I want, in particular, to thank the Indian members of the society, who organised a "Masterclass in electrophysiology" with more than 100 attendees, and who are now thinking of setting up an Electrophysiology Society, in India: the InSCEV.

As always we must remember how well the ISCEV@ARVO, the activities of SEVE@SFO, ISCEV@SOE, ISCEV@APAO, ISCEV@EVER, ISCEV@EURETINA have gone, and also the many courses and update meetings, held at: Moorfields, London, UK; in Wuhan, China; in Munich and Siegburg in Germany; in Venice, Italy, in New York, Henderson, Chicago, USA; and in Matoya, Japan; and to find all those that I have not mentioned, please look at our website...

A lot of consultation and experimentation with new management platforms has permitted a far from simple transition in our WildApricot site. Michael Bach and Karen have done a magnificent job and we do greatly appreciate their great commitment, and technical skills, for managing the problems. We could not have found two better people to carry out these tasks.

In 2016 we met in Singapore, a place exploding with modernity yet, at the same time, rich in traditions and centennial spirituality. With the help of Audrey Chia, Ranjana Mathur, and the whole group of organisers, we enjoyed a symposium full of cultural exchanges and new inspirations for our work.

We got to know a truly beautiful city and had a short experience of life in this small paradise, of its past, and of its plans for the future. It is incredible how, in just a few days, which we spent almost entirely immersed in the work of the congress, we still managed to learn so much about this part of the world. Indeed, I firmly believe that it is this special ability of our organisers to help us understand the uniqueness of life in each place where we hold our meetings, that makes them so very special.

Singapore and its territories was not an easy place to organise a cycling tour but, in some way or another, the many opportunities offered by the city allowed us to maintain the tradition of the ISCYCLISTS and a small group of us toured a fascinating Singapore, by night. We must not forget our "social network", cev-net, which is not only always so useful for real time exchanges of information, and clinical questions, but also for instrumental techniques themes and, this year more than ever, active in the Christmas period when we send and receive our seasonal greetings all over the world... Very nice...

See you soon dear friends. I hope to see you all in Miami.



*Patrizia Tormene, ISCEV President*

# Message from the Secretary-General

As the newly elected Secretary-General, it has been an honor to serve in this capacity over the past 8 months and I have learned a tremendous amount. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my predecessor, Ruth Hamilton, for her detailed notes and many helpful e-mails. In addition, Michael Bach has been equally instrumental in 'on-boarding' me and has been diligently helping me with all things related to our new membership database (including tolerating my liberties with the host name, see his message).



One of the key roles of the Secretary-General involves membership. In our field, technology changes quickly and new diagnostic techniques continue to emerge and gain footholds. As we all are aware, there are many sophisticated microperimetry and imaging techniques that have developed as methodologies for examining function and dysfunction. Despite the emergence of these new tools, clinical electrophysiology continues to maintain its presence. There still exists a need for electrophysiology, with clear guidelines carefully developed by this society and with individually established laboratory-based norms. The number of active members in ISCEV has remained constant over recent years and our membership is steady at approximately 300. We are always welcoming new members, but this is especially true during the months just prior to the annual meeting. As in the past, these members come from all over the world, with 43 countries represented. There are 16 countries with only 1 registered member. Of course, with the rapid rise in social media, our exposure continues to increase. The Facebook page started by Ruth continues to flourish, with the number of followers up to more than 1100 and page 'likes' growing. Please visit it if you have not yet: [www.facebook.com/ISCEV.org](http://www.facebook.com/ISCEV.org)

With the annual meeting approaching, one other task of the Secretary-General is to manage and help review the travel grants for the annual meeting. This is a rewarding task, because it involves helping young scientists receive funding to make traveling to ISCEV a possibility. This year we were able to award many travel grants for funding for the ISCEV courses, the ISCEV symposium or both. Details to be revealed at the annual meeting. I hope to see all of you there!

*Karen Holopigian, ISCEV Secretary General*

## Report of the Director of Education

The 2016 Singapore courses were vibrant. The Great ISCEV Course Quiz at the end of the human clinical electrophysiology course caused much laughter, many Eureka moments and important feedback for reflection. This anonymous, interactive quiz allowed delegates to review the key learning points with some deceptively simple and outrageously devious questions, from each faculty member. It is an aspect of learning we will try to incorporate more in future.



The courses took place over two days preceding the main Singapore conference. An internationally renowned faculty gathered and talked in depth on topics ranging from the basic principles of each visual electrophysiology test, their clinical application and use in translational vision research. Clinical demonstrations were lively and informal (see picture). I am grateful for the support of sponsoring manufacturers who allow their equipment to be used.

Audrey Chia and Ranjana Mathur were excellent local course facilitators, who with the unflappable Shirley Tay enabled these intense and enjoyable courses. I would like to thank the faculty of 2016 for making the 2016 human and animal courses such a success, some sharing key lecturers with the concurrent animal course; Michael Bach, Laura Frishman, Ruth Hamilton, Chris Hogg, Graham Holder, Bo Lei, Mineo Kondo, Ido Perlman, Anthony Robson, Mathias Seeliger, Dorothy Thompson, and Suresh Viswanathan.

We are keen to promote ISCEV education in clinical visual electrophysiology across the world and I want to highlight Dr Neha Goel who, encouraged by the Singapore course, organised the first Masterclass on Electrophysiology in Noida, India some 5 months later! This was very successful and well attended. An 'ISCEV approved' course requires participation of an ISCEV member and recommendations to follow ISCEV standards. Please just e-mail DoE details of your course content and faculty for this. We can then provide encouragement and advice from a



network of experienced teachers and also help publicise your meeting using the ISCEV website, newsletter, facebook and twitter.



It is exciting to see many more event listings on the ISCEV website. Many ISCEV members promote education in visual electrophysiology locally and internationally during the year and I look forward to even more appearing on the website.

Please let me know if there are any suggestions or topic gaps you think ISCEV courses could fill. The ISCEV courses are evolving every year to remain relevant, accessible and responsive. We are open to your ideas.

*Dorothy Thompson, ISCEV Director of Education*

## Report of the Director of Standards

It is a privilege to be appointed as successor to Daphne McCulloch in the role of Director of ISCEV standards and I am grateful to her for her time and helpful advice and for enabling a smooth transition. It has been an eventful and productive first few months.

A substantially revised and updated version of the ISCEV standard for EOG was published in February 2017, including updated information on the mechanism and reporting of the EOG and I would especially like to thank Paul Constable for chairing the committee and for driving things forward. Paul also spotted a typographical error that had crept into a figure showing a “fast oscillation” and this was acknowledged in a subsequent erratum, to avoid any possibility of confusion.

The ISCEV clinical guide to procedures and indications for testing was drafted with the help of my co-authors; Josefin Nilsson, Subhadra Jalali, Shiyong Li, Graham Holder, Patrizia Tormene, Anne Fulton and Scott Brodie. There has been debate regarding the content and format of this document over the last few years and more recent discussion following my short presentation at the 2016 ISCEV membership meeting in Singapore. The latest version incorporates suggestions made at the last ISCEV meeting and describes the underlying principles of testing for each of the standard test modalities as well as common clinical presentations. Typical findings in diagnoses that commonly benefit from testing are summarized and tabulated. The draft guideline is currently available on the ISCEV website and it is requested that your valued feedback and comments are first sent to Scott Brodie (committee chair).



It is well recognised that characterization of retinal and visual pathway function may require electrophysiological methods in addition to those described in the ISCEV standards. It was proposed a decade ago that ISCEV guidelines should be formulated for several of these additional techniques, used increasingly for diagnostic, functional phenotyping or research purposes. Earlier this year Suresh Viswanathan and I invited ISCEV members to form committees, to prepare guidelines relating to the VEP assessment of visual acuity, dark adapted red flash ERG, short-wavelength flash ERG, the luminance response, the photopic hill ERG protocol, long duration On-Off ERG and the photopic negative response (PhNR). A dedicated session at the ISCEV symposium in Miami has been organized and there will be presentations by committee chairs on each guideline, so that all can be informed and involved. It is planned to circulate most of the draft protocols for consultation before the ISCEV meeting, with possible publication in a special issue of Documenta Ophthalmologica planned for 2018.

My first few months as Director of Standards have been quite demanding but an interesting and rewarding experience. I look forward to your feedback on the new draft guidelines at the Miami symposium and hope that with your involvement and collaboration, we can further increase the scope and influence of the ISCEV standards and guidelines.

*Anthony Robson, ISCEV Director of Standards*

# Report of the Editor-in-Chief, Documenta Ophthalmologica

I am happy to report that the impact factor of Documenta Ophthalmologica has increased substantially from 1.44 in 2015 to 1.92 in 2016 (the most recent IF available). Our Journal now ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the Ophthalmology category (as per InCites). Given that the mission of our Journal is to publish relevant and scientifically sound papers in visual electrophysiology, it is extremely gratifying that adherence to this mission continues to attract high quality manuscripts which contribute in maintaining the visibility of our Journal and consequently its impact in the field. To further enhance our visibility, Springer now invites the Editor to choose two articles per issue that are granted a free temporary access of two months. The selected articles are also featured in tweets from Springer in order to optimize their promotion as well as that of our Journal.



From January 2016 to September 2017, a total of 137 manuscripts were evaluated. Of these, 57 were accepted, 79 rejected and 1 was withdrawn by the authors. Of the 79 papers that were rejected, 39 (49.4%) were deemed inappropriate, meaning that their content did not fit the mission of our Journal. Of those that were found appropriate, 10 were returned to the authors for clarification (reject and resubmit category), 15 were rejected following a thorough review and finally another 15 were rejected for plagiarism.

Plagiarism continues to be of great concern and it is always a difficult task for me when I have to communicate a decision of that nature. However, please be reassured that when doing so, I never solely rely on the Ithenticate (plagiarism detection software that we use) report to justify my decision and, in the more difficult cases, I will always seek the opinion of the Associate-Editors. On that note, ISCEV members should be aware of the fact that the abstracts of our annual Symposium are published in Documenta and as such, they become copyrighted material. If, following the meeting, you decide to publish a paper based on your presentation, you cannot copy your abstract verbatim in your submission as this will be identified as plagiarism by Ithenticate. Last year, I returned (reject and resubmit category) several papers that included a copy-pasted abstract of the 2016 Symposium. Ithenticate provides us with a percentage of overlap (with existing literature) and identifies, within the text, where these overlaps occur. There are of course some sections where overlaps are tolerated (such as in the method section, for example, provided that you are reproducing your own methods). However, the decision is never reached based on the percentage of overlap. In fact, there is no minimal overlap that is acceptable especially when the copied sections are not yours. To that effect, I was extremely surprised (and somewhat amused) with the comment raised by an author whose manuscript had been turned down due to plagiarism. In his rebuttal, he stated that he had checked his paper using a plagiarism detection software and found only 26% overlap (we had found 37% with Ithenticate) which he claimed was reasonable based on a decision from his University that up to 25% overlap in manuscripts, was acceptable!

As I am writing this report, I have just released the October issue of Documenta Ophthalmologica and I still have enough papers in the pipeline to guarantee at least another issue. Thus, our Journal is in much better health than it was at the same time last year. Please continue to send us your manuscripts so that we continue to maintain a high quality Journal.

*Pierre Lachapelle, Editor-In-Chief Documenta Ophthalmologica*

# Director of International Communications

During the epoch covered by this report a fair amount of tasks asked to be completed. The handover of your website to a new provider has been successfully completed, and now the website is fully accessible from any country. The next big thing is to move our website to a content management system. After prolonged deliberation, we have decided to turn to a system that provides both web content AND membership management, geared towards societies like ours.

The membership database has been successfully migrated from a FileMaker hosting company to the new system powered by "WildApricot" (yes, yes, I know, terrible name, but it is a sound system... :) All recent emails to members were distributed via that system. After getting the hang of it, it now makes this task easier – previously I had to send mass emails in batches to avoid being classified as a spammer. As I found out, it's easy to botch up batches... Furthermore, this system has proven easier to handle for my fellow board officers, since it is entirely web-based. Testing WildApricot's page-building tools, I have created a test page <<https://iscev.wildapricot.org/Home2>> (beware, not fully functional, nor up-to-date). It mirrors our current home page in look and feel, yet was created entirely with their content management tools, with manageable effort.

Finally, as I write this, the current newsletter had to be prepared. I started it in 1997 and now it has caught up with me again.

My goals for the upcoming epoch are clear:

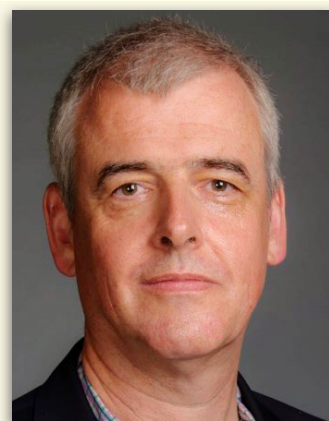
- Send mass-emails as rarely as possible – I hate clogging up your inbox
- Migrate all our web pages to the new CMS system – that's an achievable goal, if boring :)
- Prepare the migration of payment processing to the new system. That needs to be done very carefully, of course, and led by our Treasurer, our President and our Secretary General. A promising step already was to include PayPal as a payment option, which was welcomed by our members.

*Michael Bach, ISCEV Director of International Communications*



## Treasurer's Report

As every year, the spreadsheet summarizing ISCEV's finances is the central piece of information in the treasurer's report. It displays the financial data for 2016 and retrospectively for a period of 10 years (this year for 2006–2016). Last year, I introduced a slight adaptation of the format, which you may find in the current spreadsheet, too. In addition, since the lab visit program was terminated in 2013, I reused this line for the new YSCEV support that started 2016 and so the number of lines did not have to be increased. For those that may have missed last year's report, the idea was to separately list EUR and USD assets and payments to enhance transparency of the monetary transactions of our international society. In each of the main sections (Income, Expenditure, Assets), USD transactions and funds are now itemized separately (USD are indicated by a left alignment and a '\$' sign in each respective cell, whereas EUR amounts are right-aligned). At the end of each section, EUR and USD totals are calculated separately. Where appropriate, a conversion of the USD amount in EUR (based on the rate on the 31.12. of the respective year) and a grand total is provided, as the accounting and tax records must be reported in that currency. The financial outcome in 2016 was again balanced and well within the margin of fluctuation over the past years. Major factors for these fluctuations between years are payments to and from Springer and symposium-related cash flow through ISCEV's accounts. Due to the local handling of payments for the Singapore meeting, there was neither a payment nor a return, and –as an exception– the Dawson Award was directly handled by the organizers. Notably, we had two prepayments in 2016, one for the present 2017 meeting, and one for the upcoming one in France in 2018. Regarding our assets, the remaining deposit in USD may have to be terminated by the end of 2017 due to novel administrative barriers for commercial activities of societies. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding the treasurer's report. I look forward to seeing you in Miami.



*Mathias Seeliger, ISCEV Treasurer*



Treasurers Report											
(Euro)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
<b>Income</b>											
Membership dues	33,943.97	28,090.23	23,855.55	23,521.15	25,518.88	29,472.77	28,903.42	29,400.00	29,000.00	30,322.31	29,805.49
Symposium income through treasurers office	5,440.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,069.97	120,532.52	0.00	0.00
Bank account interests EUR	2,172.38	3,252.53	2,887.38	1,785.54	1,536.14	1,067.59	111.99	1,289.84	728.72	534.85	43.04
Bank account interests USD											\$3.95
Publisher editorial payment	6,846.85	10,829.44	5,775.25	6,738.15	6,158.80	25,041.46	13,409.00	15,549.58	7,108.81	6,448.87	22,927.89
Symposium return (income & returned pre-financi	22,343.00	0.00	0.00	1,919.79	0.00	14,823.25	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,504.45	0.00
Dawson Lecture USD (2016 via Symposium organ.)									\$4,800.00	\$4,785.00	\$0.00
Other income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Income EUR</i>									157,370.05	43,810.48	52,776.42
<i>Income USD</i>									\$4,800.00	\$4,785.00	\$3.95
<i>Income USD in EUR (31.12.XX)</i>									3,531.80	4,376.26	3.75
<b>Total Income (EUR)</b>	<b>70,747.09</b>	<b>42,172.20</b>	<b>32,518.18</b>	<b>33,964.63</b>	<b>33,213.82</b>	<b>70,405.07</b>	<b>47,424.41</b>	<b>90,309.39</b>	<b>160,901.85</b>	<b>48,186.74</b>	<b>52,780.17</b>
Marmor Award \$									\$5,980.00	\$0.00	\$0.82
<b>Expenditure</b>											
Treasurers office	735.49	1,039.31	0.00	0.00	30.00	96.75	121.26	1,213.90	0.00	194.25	0.00
Check handling fees, bank charges	413.83	221.99	119.35	132.60	207.54	340.94	153.41	327.34	516.84	193.19	65.15
Credit card handling fees	1,992.41	1,540.32	1,404.16	1,190.20	1,443.39	1,617.38	1,564.51	3,686.65	6,504.08	354.56	353.31
Internet services	569.55	213.54	569.96	212.96	212.96	598.79	1,605.26	2,961.71	2,765.46	96.35	691.25
Lawyer	139.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accounting	696.00	714.00	357.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,501.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Secretary general office / ISCEV board	14,828.00	2,587.20	9,295.54	4,203.40	0.00	0.00	6,951.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Secretary general office / ISCEV board USD									\$1,706.68	\$0.00	\$0.00
Editors office	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ISCEV Subscriptions DOOP	26,999.50	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,248.71	28,569.00	0.00	52,483.50	31,779.00	28,087.50	19,340.25
Symposium financing	12,776.57	7,363.23	1,980.26	9,087.03	18,930.85	6,199.02	571.79	20,562.82	120,340.20	0.00	47,372.92
Travel grants	2,893.12	3,499.28	4,870.38	6,990.00	8,000.00	4,300.00	5,000.00	4,685.00	8,962.99	5,790.00	5,590.00
Dawson Lecture						3,600.00	3,500.00	3,600.00	3,531.80	0.00	0.00
Dawson Lecture USD											
Lab visits (-2013), YSCEV support (2016-)	0.00	0.00	1,463.19	6,343.81	0.00	4,500.00	3,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
<i>Expenditure EUR</i>	62,043.67	43,428.87	46,309.84	54,410.00	55,073.45	49,821.88	25,469.71	92,020.92	174,400.37	36,422.53	75,712.88
<i>Expenditure USD</i>									\$0.00	\$1,706.68	\$0.00
<i>Expenditure USD in EUR (31.12.XX)</i>									0.00	1,560.89	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>62,043.67</b>	<b>43,428.87</b>	<b>46,309.84</b>	<b>54,410.00</b>	<b>55,073.45</b>	<b>49,821.88</b>	<b>25,469.71</b>	<b>92,020.92</b>	<b>174,400.37</b>	<b>37,983.42</b>	<b>75,712.88</b>
Marmor Award \$									\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance</b>											
Total Income - Total Expenditure EUR	8,703.42	-1,256.67	-13,791.66	-20,445.37	-21,859.63	20,583.19	21,954.70	-1,711.53	-13,498.52	10,203.31	-22,932.71
Total Income - Total Expenditure USD									\$4,800.00	\$3,078.32	\$3.95
Income - Expenditure Marmor Award USD									\$5,480.00	-\$1,000.00	\$0.82
<b>Assets (as of 31.12.XX)</b>											
USD Account									\$18,416.46	\$21,494.78	1,0525
USD Account in EUR	12,888.32	6,266.13	3,958.97	837.38	492.95	4,342.99	7,871.62	11,101.87	15,220.89	19,658.66	20,426.35
EURO Account	22,492.33	35,278.37	28,940.95	9,544.35	6,784.39	75,735.72	23,127.03	33,393.44	38,693.08	98,057.71	75,121.25
Deposit	107,122.08	99,701.48	101,425.24	101,385.41	84,771.43	35,166.30	109,917.72	102,507.97	87,700.00	41,787.70	43,551.04
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>142,502.73</b>	<b>141,245.98</b>	<b>134,325.16</b>	<b>111,767.14</b>	<b>92,048.77</b>	<b>115,245.01</b>	<b>140,916.37</b>	<b>147,003.28</b>	<b>141,613.97</b>	<b>159,504.07</b>	<b>139,098.64</b>
Marmor Award USD Account \$									\$5,480.00	\$4,480.00	\$4,480.82
Members (paid, honorary & emeritus)	283	290	272	275	283	262	306	305	264	249	

# CEVnet update

CEVnet is the email-based discussion list-server sponsored by ISCEV. Participation is open to ISCEV members and others with an active interest in clinical electrophysiology of vision. New ISCEV members are automatically enrolled for participation in CEVnet, and others upon request.

Since the creation of CEVnet over a decade ago, bandwidths have increased, and email servers are now more tolerant of larger attached files. Participants are encouraged to share informative or perplexing cases for discussion, including fundus photos, visual fields, OCT and FAF images, and, of course, the electrophysiology waveforms. Attachments are limited to 10 MB in size. One convenient way to present clinical materials is to place them in a text document, and then convert the file to PDF format. This will usually provide sufficient compression of multiple images to create a file of manageable size. Please remove identifying information so as to preserve the confidentiality of your patients.



In addition to case presentations, we welcome discussion of all matters related to clinical electrophysiology of vision, including questions of technique, discussions about our protocols, instrumentation, and calibration, as well as announcements of general interest, such as announcements of employment opportunities, changes of venue, meetings of interest, etc.

CEVnet is a “closed list” – our server will not post messages originating at email addresses which are not found in our master list. Please let me know if you change your email address for any reason (this is the most common cause of “missed messages”). There is no difficulty with a participant being listed at more than one email address, but all messages will be sent to each active address.

Our server will automatically drop your name from the list after 10 rejections by your server, typically for a full inbox. If you have not heard from us in a while, feel free to check with me to confirm that your address is still active. If, for any reason, you wish to be dropped from the list, just let me know by email – you are always welcome back if you change your mind!

Messages to be posted on CEVnet should be sent to: [CEVnet@mssm.edu](mailto:CEVnet@mssm.edu)

Communications about joining or dropping the list, changes of email address, or other technical issues should be sent to my email address: [scott.brodie@mssm.edu](mailto:scott.brodie@mssm.edu).

*Scott E. Brodie, Moderator, CEVnet*

## Vice-President Americas

This year's ISCEV@ARVO was held in Baltimore Maryland on May 6. There were 12 speakers and about 50 attendees. The talks covered a range of interesting topics from use of the ERG in screenings and differential diagnoses to more technical issues related to stimulus presentation. Mitch Brigell, the former VP of the Americas will continue to contribute to ISCEV events in the Americas this year, serving as the coordinator for 55<sup>th</sup> Symposium, organized by Byron Lam and team that will be held in Miami Florida in October. I look forward to seeing you in Miami where we will be “addressing the full spectrum of visual electrophysiology” and encourage you to participate in ISCEV@ARVO on April 28, 2018 in Honolulu, Hawaii.



*Laura Frishman, ISCEV Vice President Americas*

# Vice-President Asia & Australasia

The year of 2016 was an active one for ISCEV members in the Asia and Oceania. First of all, I would like to thank Drs. Audrey Chia and Ranjana Mathur, and their team for excellent organization of the 54th ISCEV symposium in Singapore. Details of the symposium are being reported by them in this newsletter.

Fortunately, I was able to return to Singapore next year for the ISCEV symposium at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) meeting. The symposium “ISCEV Course for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision” was organized and chaired by Audrey Chia (Singapore) and Shuichi Yamamoto (Japan), and gave important clinical and new perspectives on the role of electrophysiology through lectures by Kaoru Fujinami (Japan), Audrey Chia (Singapore), Bo Lei (China), Mineo Kondo (Japan), and Young-Hoon Ohn (Korea).

*Shuichi Yamamoto, ISCEV Vice President Asia & Australasia*



# Vice-President Europe & Africa

The fact that the ISCEV meeting takes place in late October this year means that a lot has happened since the last ISCEV newsletter.

The 2016 BriSCEV meeting took place at the University of Aston in Birmingham, England's second city. The meeting was hosted by Antonio Calcagni, Frank Eperjesi and Olivia Howells, with the customary pre-meeting course, which had a theme of functional imaging of the visual system. There was a memorable visit to the Thinktank Museum which celebrates Birmingham's industrial and engineering heritage.

In early October, Dorothy Thompson, Alki Liasis, Tony Robson and Richard Smith led a seminar at the EVER meeting in Nice on the subject of visual electrophysiology in neuro-ophthalmological disease.

Also in October, Ulrich Kellner led his 20th electrophysiology course for German-speaking ophthalmologists in Siegburg, with a theme of visual electrophysiology in rare retinal disorders. The Munich visual electrophysiology course took place in May 2017, hosted by Thomas Berninger.

The ever-popular Moorfields Course took place on 22–24 March 2017, led by Graham Holder and Chris Hogg. Graham Holder was also flying the flag for visual electrophysiology at The European Society of Ophthalmology in June in Barcelona, with a course on paediatric electrophysiology.

SEVE, the French visual electrophysiology society, held its Autumn meeting in October 2016 in Rennes, and the spring meeting on 6 May at the French Society of Ophthalmology congress in Paris, chaired by Martine Crochet. In August, sad news came through of the untimely death of Prof Christian Hamel, a distinguished clinician-scientist who was to have given a guest lecture at the ISCEV Congress in Reims next year. Christian will be known to many ISCEV members, and he will be much missed by those who knew him and worked with him.

The Autumn offers a rich choice of visual electrophysiology events for English, French and German speakers, with the BriSCEV meeting in Bradford in September (hosted by Prof Declan McKeefry), the SEVE meeting in Paris in October and the Siegburg meeting in October. ISCEV will once again be represented at EVER in late September in Nice with a course led by Graham Holder, Bart Leroy and Dorothy Thompson. And then, of course we have the ISCEV Congress in Miami to round off the year in truly international style. Fortunately, BREXIT doesn't apply to visual electrophysiology!

Finally, I am delighted to report that Colin Barber is continuing to make a strong recovery from illness and sends ISCEV members his best wishes. He won't be joining us in Miami, but is planning to make a come-back for ISCEV in Reims in 2018.

*Richard Smith, ISCEV Vice President Europe and Africa*





# Eliot L. Berson – A Personal Obituary

Eliot L. Berson, M.D. William F. Chatlos Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, Founding Director of the Berman-Gund Laboratory for the Study of Retinal Degenerations, died on Sunday, 19 March 2017.

Eliot left a very vivid impression in my mind as a true clinician scientist, bringing forward our field a really big step. Let me elaborate this: I first met Eliot in 1977 when he visited Peter Gouras' lab at N. E. I. where I was working as a postdoc. I enjoyed his visit very much as he showed genuine interest in what I was doing. He discussed very thoroughly my electroretinograms in the arterially perfused cat eye as well as my ganglion cell recordings in monkey. He gave me the feeling (true or not) that what I was doing was important for science. And THIS is the greatest gift you can give to a young clinician who is uncertain whether he or she wants to treat patients or embark on a scientist's career or – as Eliot has shown – to go forth and back the difficult path of doing both: healthcare and science. He and Peter Gouras gave me confidence that it is worthwhile to do both.

Later he told me a little bit about the Berman Gund Lab, how things fall into place, if you pursue them with perseverance and how important the close cooperation with patients is, not only as a service to them but considering them partners in research, something I have tried to do ever since.

I also learned from Eliot that it takes a brave visionary – a Christopher Columbus nature – to follow paths that nobody has taken before. In 1970 when he started to do natural history studies on hereditary retinal diseases, people considered this a bit odd. It was accepted dogma that the cause for retinal degenerations was unknown and that there would be no cure in our lifetime. Why bother.

Undaunted, Eliot Berson remained determined to understand the underlying cause of his patients' retinal diseases, because it was clear to him that there could only be a therapy, if the exact origin of the disease were known. And it is not luck but a consequence of this vision that he found partners in Mr. Berman and Mr. Gund who saw his great potential and provided him with the funds to go on. The famous Berman Gund Laboratory under his guidance was really the first place where a major effort towards finding a cure for inherited retinal diseases started. It was the beginning of what we now see as an exploding field in molecular genetic diagnostics, in understanding the metabolism and – as he had envisioned – the rise of really promising therapeutic trials today.

It was his fantastic collection of carefully investigated patients that formed the basis of very early discoveries of a large number of genes. This allowed Eliot together with Ted Dryja and others, who were relying on Eliot's meticulous phenotype observation and clinical data to select the right families for seminal discoveries by molecular genetic diagnostics.

I visited Eliot in his lab and it was very kind that Keara picked me up at the airport. His lab was not a big unit and there were not the newest instruments, but there was his most stunning ability to record very tiny ERG responses together with Michael Sandberg, clearly far ahead at getting such almost-subthreshold responses in regular patients, extremely difficult to record with the instruments of the early eighties.

There were no cause-related therapies at hand at that time, but there were possibilities to look for vitamins A and E, for Lutein and Xeaxanthin effects. He persevered in conducting difficult studies for seven long years, rewarded in the end by finding significant evidence of the disease slowing down due to the effects of a certain vitamin A dose. However, it was clear that not all patients but only a subgroup of affected persons would benefit, as verified later in mice with Rhodopsin mutations.

It was not easy for him to get the full support of the scientific community as he was quite often a few years ahead of the rest of the community, coming up with novel ideas that are not necessarily always honored immediately. But very clearly it was very often Eliot, who shaped the direction of future developments in clinical sciences of inherited retinal dystrophies.

He was undoubtedly a critical discussant as I learned during my presidency of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision. He did not always attend the ISCEV meetings, but when he attended, it was clear that there would be controversy and discussions that would bring the field forward. His opinions – even when opposing others – were founded on personal experience, experience that stemmed from his ability of bridging the field between basic and clinical sciences.

He always will stay in my mind as role model and shining example for a clinical scientist. I salute Eliot Berson with greatest respect, deepest gratitude and appreciation. He will always stay with us.

*Eberhart Zrenner, Former President of ISCEV*

# Christian Hamel – Obituary

As every year the first annual meeting of SEVE (the French visual electrophysiology society) was hosted by the Societe Française d'Ophtalmologie in May in Paris, and as usual we had courses for beginners, news from the research and clinical cases. Despite the year was rich in events, the most important is the loss of Christian Hamel. At the same time we had to write the newsletter we received the sad news of Pr Christian Hamel's death. The whole scientific family, SEVE and the patients lost a brilliant humble smiling clinician and scientist.

He was with us at the ISCEV meeting in France in 2006 when we created the SEVE. Some years later he founded the french speaking society of genetics (SGOF). We thank him for the way he has led us. We realise that we are privileged by crossing or following his way. Christian Hamel, 62, fought for 5 years against a cancer. He worked at NIH (gene RPE65). He created a database cochlea CDNAs that permitted to discover gene of Usher's disease, With his INSERM team in Montpellier he has discovered gene OPA1 for dominant optic atrophy, genes IMPG1 and IMPG2 for vitelliform macular degeneration.

*Martine Crochet, présidente de la SEVE*

## The Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award



The 21th Annual Dodt Award went to Jeremiah Kah Heng Lim (Australia) for his presentation “Functional and Structural Insights into Ageing and Alzheimer's Disease in a Murine Model”. The picture on the left shows him together with ISCEV President, Alma Patrizia Tormene. Competition was stiff again in 2016, and two further young scientists were commended for their efforts: Dennis Fritsch (UK) and Anna Polosa (Canada).

## The Dawson Memorial Lecture

A stimulating 2016 Dawson Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Tien Yin Wong, Vice Dean, medical director of the Singapore National Eye Centre. Its title was “The Brain as the Natural Extension of the Eye: Insights into Stroke and Dementia”. This was the 5th Dawson Memorial Lecture, presented annually at the ISCEV Symposium, and enabled by a generous endowment from Judyth Dawson in memory of her beloved husband, Dr William Woodson Dawson, using the proceeds from the trademark of the Dawson-Trick-Litzkow corneal electrode.



## The Emiko Adachi Award & Lecture



The prestigious Emiko Adachi Award Lecture was given by Professor Michael Bach, Eye Center, University Medical Center, Freiburg, Germany (pictured on the left). Professor Bach was introduced by Professor Daphne L McCulloch, former ISCEV Secretary-General. The lecture title was simply “Patterns”.

The 2016 recipient was announced as Professor Laura Frishman, and she will deliver the Emiko Adachi Lecture at the 2017 Symposium in Miami. Professor Frishman is the 12th recipient of the Adachi Award, which is given only to members of ISCEV with a record of long and outstanding service to the Society, as well as being a significant contributor to clinical electrophysiology of vision. Previous recipients are listed on the ISCEV website.



# YSCEV @ ISCEV 2017

After the successful launch at the ISCEV symposium in Singapore 2016, YSCEV (“Young Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision”) is looking forward to this year’s symposium in Miami. We want to provide a “step-ping-stone” into the field of clinical electrophysiology of vision by providing social events and more, to foster collaboration amongst new and more senior members of ISCEV. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us during the symposium, so whether you are a first-timer or more senior member, make sure to attend !



This year’s activities are currently in planning and the final events will be announced shortly before the symposium. In the meantime, why not join our facebook group via the QR code (above) for updates?





# 55th ISCEV Symposium: Miami, USA



I have the great pleasure and honor to extend to you a warm welcome to the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual ISCEV Symposium being held at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. The robust scientific program and complementary events being offered at ISCEV 2017 are aimed to provide the utmost quality of education and networking opportunities for all specialists involved in the practice or research of clinical electrophysiology of vision. ISCEV 2017 features engaging Animal and Human Hands-On Courses, riveting Frontier Lectures, extensive Paper and Poster Abstract Sessions, a Clinical Case Session, and a special Standards Session. In addition to over 30 original oral paper presentations and over 50 poster presentations, there are 3 Frontiers Lectures: “Reaching the Tipping Point in Glaucoma” by Vittorio Porciatti, “Swept Source OCT for Retinal Imaging: The Future is Now” by Phil Rosenfeld, and “Inflammatory Retinopathies” by Janet Davis.



As tribute and tremendous thanks to founding key opinion leaders in the field, ISCEV 2017 will once again feature the annual William Dawson and Emiko Adachi Lectures. The Emiko Adachi Lecture “Electrodiagnostic Testing in the Age of Imaging” is delivered by Laura Frishman, and the William Dawson Lecture “Hereditary Retinal Degenerations – What We Have Learned So Far” is given by Rong Wen.

Miami serves as a magnificent backdrop to the educational content presented at ISCEV 2017. The social program highlighting South Florida’s cuisine, culture and natural beauty is certain to make a memorable impression on symposium attendees. We hope the attendees find ISCEV 2017 to be a uniquely valuable professional experience, while making certain to take a little extra time to enjoy the spectacular and unique beauty of the region.

*Byron L. Lam, ISCEV 2017 Symposium Local Host*



# 56<sup>th</sup> ISCEV Symposium: Invitation to Reims, France 20–23 June 2018

The French Society of Electrophysiology and Vision Exploration (SEVE), Reims University and the City of Reims are very honored to host the 56<sup>th</sup> ISCEV Symposium. Reims is an ancient powerful Roman City, its Cathedral is the coronation site of 33 French Kings. Estimated cost of registration: 670 €.



You are invited to discover its rich and varied monuments listed in UNESCO World Heritage, testimonies of its prestigious past, its champagnes, its gastronomy. It is an internationally renowned venue with High Speed Train (TGV) interconnections, Paris (45 mins), Charles de Gaulle Airport (30 mins) London Saint-Pancras via Marne la Vallée (3 h), Bruxelles (3 h), Strasbourg (2 h). By car, it is a 2 h drive from Charles de Gaulle Airport. The Convention Centre, with modern, high performance equipment and fine gastronomy is located in the city centre and in the Pate d'Oie Park in which the Olympics will take place on Thursday. The venue is in a 5 min walking distance from the central train station and all the main hotels amongst which is the Best Western Hotel de la Paix. A welcome reception will be held at the City Hall on Wednesday evening. On Saturday evening the farewell gala will take place at the Episcopal Palace just beside the Cathedral.



For accompanying persons, visits to well-known sites in Reims, to the Mountain of Reims with its beautiful vineyards, champagne cellars and the town of Epernay are being planned.



We look forward to welcoming you to the Champagne Region!

*Carl Arndt, the French Society of Electrophysiology and Vision Exploration (SEVE) and Reims University*



# Minutes of the 2016 ISCEV Membership Meeting (draft for approval)

14:00, 18 August 2016, The Academia auditorium, Singapore General Hospital campus Singapore

55 Members were in attendance.

## 1. Opening & welcome by the President

Professor Patrizia Tormene, President, opened the meeting and thanked the organisers for their hospitality. It was noted the meeting was open only to members; junior members could not vote. Dr Ruth Hamilton, Secretary-General, outlined the purpose of the meeting (bye-laws Article XV, 1–4).

## 2. Minutes of the 2015 ISCEV Membership Meeting

The minutes of the 2015 ISCEV Membership Meeting, as printed in the 2016 Newsletter, were adopted as a true record. There were no corrections and no matters arising.

## 3. Report from the 2016 Symposium Organiser

Dr Audrey Chia reported 79 and 11 attendees for the human and animal courses respectively; 196 registrants for the Symposium from 30 countries. 16 (of which, 4 children) accompanying persons registered. 56 registrants were members. 103 registrations were received before the ‘early bird’ deadline. 48 received the ‘local’ rate; 21 received complimentary (part of sponsorship) registrations, and there was one on-site registration. 68 abstracts were accepted, 44 as oral papers, and 13 clinical cases. Preliminary budget showed income of approximately 72k Singapore dollars from sponsorship and 1,250k Singapore dollars from registrations. A small surplus was anticipated. The membership showed their appreciation of Dr Chia’s team’s work with a round of applause.

## 4. ISCEV Officers’ Reports

Secretary-General report: Ruth Hamilton presented her report as in the Newsletter, noting that it was her last report as she was standing down at the end of her five-year term. She thanked Patrizia and the membership for appointing her and noted how much she had learned from and enjoyed the role. She noted the slight drop in membership and the shift to greater representation from Asian countries, and that the running costs of the Secretary-General’s office had dropped by two-thirds due to use of online services.

Editor-in-Chief, DOOP report: Pierre Lachapelle noted that the journal was suffering from a drop in submissions and exhorted those present to submit their work to Documenta. Daphne McCulloch noted that pertinent special issues would be welcomed.

Director of Education: Dorothy Thompson gave an update from the 2016 course, noting excellent feedback. She stated that the courses were continually evolving and thanked the sponsors (Diagnosys, Roland and LKC) for their support. With 90 attendees, it was ISCEV’s biggest ever course, and she thanked Audrey Chi and her team for their work in advertising and supporting.

Director of Standards: Daphne McCulloch noted that the standards session had taken place and resulted in good ideas and input and forward planning. The EOG Standard will progress in the next few weeks.

Director of Communications: Michael Bach had nothing to add to his report in the newsletter.

Treasurer: Mathias Seeliger noted changes in the report in the interests of clarity. Award funds were now listed as separate entities. Assets were subject to fluctuations in dollar-Euro exchange rates. The membership exonerated Mathias Seeliger with a show of hands.

The membership exonerated the work of the Board with a show of hands.

## 5. Highlights from the 2016 Board meeting

Eight travel grants were awarded, with a mixture of awards for course, symposium or both. There were 19 candidates for the Dodt Award. There were also 12 candidates for the \$500 initial Marmor Award, and one project eligible for the \$2500 follow-up Marmor Award. An ISCEV course was run at ARVO in 2016, and this will be repeated every 3 years, as well as an annual ISCEV@ARVO scientific session. To encourage increased membership, we plan to offer junior membership rates for one year to all non-members attending the Singapore Symposium. ISCEV planned to produce a first draft of a simple, ‘lab standard’ for labs to self-accredit. This would be circulated widely for consultation. The Board are also working closely with Springer to ensure non-paying access to the Standards. YSCEV is a new initiative from those young or new to visual electrophysiology.

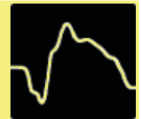


gy which is hoped to help the specialty flourish. ISCEV is looking at using commercial society management software to deal with some of the aspects of payment and other routine tasks associated with the Society.

6. Standards Update – Daphne McCulloch noted that the existing Standards were being reviewed in terms of the schedule for updating. The Guidelines are also due for updating.
7. Elections
  1. VP of Europe & Africa: Dorothy Thompson supported the re-election of Richard Smith noting his knowledge and pragmatism and ability to deliver as promised. There were no further nominations from the floor. The membership approved unanimously his re-election to a second term. Richard thanked those present.
  2. Director of Standards: Daphne McCulloch was thanked for her extensive work during her term. She thanked the membership and noted she would support the transition to a new Director. Anthony Robson was proposed by Michael Bach, who noted that Tony was extremely knowledgeable and an excellent candidate. There were no further nominations from the floor. The membership approved unanimously Tony's election as Director of Standards.
  3. Director of International Communications: Ruth Hamilton supported Michael Bach's nomination for a second term noting his hard work and ability to deliver results. There were no further nominations from the floor. The membership unanimously voted Michael for a second term as Director of International Communications.
  4. Member-at-Large: Professor Zheng Qin Yin was not able to attend, but sent a letter noting her willingness to stand for a second term and outlining the work she had undertaken so far. There were no further nominations from the floor. The membership voted unanimously to re-elect Prof Zheng Qin Yin as Member-at-Large.
  5. Secretary-General: Patrizia thanked Ruth Hamilton for her work over the last five years. Patrizia then proposed Karen Holopigian as Secretary-General, citing her long-standing activity for ISCEV. The membership unanimously ratified this choice: Dr Karen Holopigian was therefore appointed as Secretary-General.
8. Future ISCEV Symposia
  1. 2017: Miami, Florida (Symposium Coordinator Mitch Brigell). Host Byron Lam confirmed dates (23–26 October; courses 21–22 October) to avoid other meetings. Hurricanes are very unlikely. Miami airport is close to conference facility (Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Education Centre). The Symposium hotel (Marriott South Beach Stanton) is 4 miles away, and transport will be provided. The hotel is on the beach and next to a park. Negotiated room rates are \$199 (1 bed, inc tax, exc breakfast) or \$235 (2 beds, inc tax, exc breakfast). Welcome reception is planned at a bayside restaurant, and the final banquet and excursions to Fairchild Gardens (25 miles), with the Olympics being planned on the beach. Registration is estimated at 550-600 euros, to include all breakfasts, coffee breaks and lunches, 3 dinners and the excursion.
  2. 2018: Reims, France (Symposium Coordinator Colin Barber). Host Carl Arndt confirmed dates as 20–23 June (courses 18–19 June). Reims is 30 minutes on high-speed train from Paris airport. Venue is the Reims Congress Centre in the city centre; many suitable hotels within walking distance. Welcome reception in the city hall, gala dinner in either champagne cellar or in reception room used by French kings. Estimated 590 euros, possibly better. Supporting team from SEVE.
  3. 2019: Two invitations were presented: Paul Constable and team presented Darwin, North Australia and Prof Young Hoon Ohn and team presented Seoul, Republic of Korea. Both venues will go forward to a membership vote.
9. Any other business

No further business had been notified to the Secretary-General. Mathias Seeliger noted the importance of citing the current Standards when referencing them. Tony Robson also noted importance of raising this as a reviewer, including whether the Standard was adhered to.
10. Close

The meeting closed at 15:36.



## International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision

### Mission

The objectives of the society are

- to promote and extend the knowledge of clinical electrophysiology of vision
- to promote co-operation and communication among workers in the field of clinical and basic electrophysiology of vision.

### ISCEV Board of Directors

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#### Director of Standards

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Viswanathan, Zheng Q Yin

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Burian (1973), G Karpe (1973), HE Henkes  
(1983), T Tomita (1983), E Dodt (1992), LH van  
der Tweel (1988), GB Arden (1994), SE Nilsson  
(1996) N Galloway (2002), E Adachi (2003), G  
Niemeyer (2003), Y Miyake (2007), W Dawson  
(2009), C Barber (2012), E Zrenner (2012)

### New / Hot / Frequent Topics

[2017-Symposium in Miami](#)

[Guide to procedures \(draft\)](#)

**Position:** [Clinical Scientist @Moorfields](#)

[Minutes of 2016 Membership Meeting  
Draft \(PDF\)](#)

[Voting result: Symposium 2019 in Seoul](#)

[Pictures from the Singapore Olympics  
\(by Anna Polosa\)](#)

[Olympics Trophy, the Untold Movie](#)

[2016 Newsletter](#)

[Multifocal Monuments: Travel Guide](#)

[ERG Survey Results](#)

### Journal: Documenta Ophthalmologica

[Discussion List: \(IS\)CEVnet](#)

[Awards & Keynotes](#)

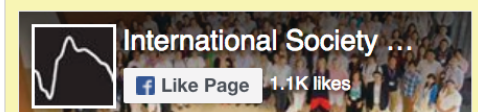
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