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This is the yearly newsletter of the International Society for clinical electrophysiology of vision (ISCEV), compiled from contributions by members and officers.

*Michael Bach
ISCEV Director of
International Communications*

From the President

Thank you for electing me as President. I am honoured and delighted, and I would like to pay tribute to Professor Patrizia Tormene's eight years of service as my predecessor.

Just nine months ago, many of us convened in Seoul with our hosts Professor Young-Hoon Ohn and colleagues. We shared our science and enjoyed Korean food and culture, little imagining what changes were just a few short months ahead. As I wrote in my blog, our Chinese colleagues were the first to confront the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its sometimes devastating consequences. They faced tough and exhausting conditions from the end of January 2020. As the

virus spread, each country's healthcare workforce faced the same fight. All countries are now facing the long-term economic and social costs, and the burden on mental health.

It may be worth reflecting that COVID-19 is not the only pandemic affecting global health: swine flu and HIV/AIDs cause hundreds or thousands of daily deaths. Endemic diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B and pneumonia are as lethal as COVID-19. But the human race, with virus-like ingenuity and adaptability, finds ways to live with and to overcome disease. Tuberculosis can be cured with BPAL treatment; HIV/AIDS is in global remission through public health programmes and treatment, and vaccines have saved millions of lives from preventable disease over the last few decades. Already, we are beginning to understand and treat COVID-19 better. There are 70+ vaccine candidates, two of which are already in Phase II trials. And novel approaches such as sterilisation of public spaces using narrow-band far-UV LED light are under investigation. We cannot ignore the fact that modern lifestyles are fatally beneficial to novel viruses, but we can always depend on the ingenuity and hard work of scientists and clinicians to seek solutions.



What can a society like ISCEV do in the face of such momentous events? In the acute phase, many of us continue to see those most urgent patients where electrodiagnostics are needed to diagnose or manage sight- or even life-threatening diseases. We are sharing good practices via CEVnet and on our website, and we are using video-telemetry for consultations and meetings. None of the major challenges facing ophthalmic disease have disappeared, and many clinical trials using our tests continue to run or be planned.

With great regret, we accepted that a face-to-face meeting in Canada would not be feasible. Fortunately, the Canadian host team – Pierre Lachapelle, Francois Tremblay, Michelle McKerral, Marc Hebert, Dave Saint-Amour, Julie Racine, Mercedes Gauthier, Anna Polosa and Allison Dorfmann – showed remarkable character by accepting the role of running ISCEV's first ever virtual meeting, supported by Karen Holopigian and myself. In another manifestation of resilience and adaptability, Tony Robson agreed to merge the postponed annual Moorfields Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision course with the ISCEV human course, supported by Dorothy Thompson, and to run this virtually. As I write, these preparations are underway: they are time-consuming and challenging, but I would like to acknowledge the wonderful contributions which will make this happen.

In my candidate statement, I committed to five major programmes as part of my vision for the future of our Society. One was to create a green policy to reduce ISCEV's carbon footprint. Thanks to our virtual meeting, this has happened of its own accord this year. I believe that our future meetings will continue to be shaped by travel restrictions and carbon consideration, and that international travel to attend scientific meetings is a luxury which the planet can no longer afford. This could mean that our future meetings will all be a combination of face-to-face and virtual – the so-called 'blended' model. Face-to-face attendees may come predominantly from the host region, whilst those elsewhere in the world can participate virtually. This offers an opportunity for ISCEV to grow its sphere of influence.

The Board exists to serve the Society and to serve you as members. You can read about Board activities in detail in this Newsletter, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions or to raise issues either at our virtual membership meeting, or by contacting us directly. We have had work to do to strengthen our administrative position and to prepare for improved governance of the Society, and I thank all the Board for their willingness and hard work. I would also like to thank Scott Brodie for his ongoing support of the CEVnet mailing list, and to thank those who support regional societies and activities in Korea (KSCEV), Japan (JCEV), the UK (BriSCEV), France (SEVE), the USA (ISCEV@ARVO) and India. If you are inclined to create or strengthen a regional group, please be in touch to see how ISCEV can support you.

Ruth Hamilton, ISCEV President

Message from the Secretary-General

I would like to start my section by acknowledging our newly elected ISCEV President, Dr. Ruth Hamilton and to thank her for all of the work she has already done on behalf of our Society. As well, I would like to thank our immediate past president, Dr. Patrizia Tormene, for all of her dedication and work for the Society over the past eight years. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many persons involved with organizing the 2019 Symposium in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This was a fantastic meeting, very well organized and enjoyable, as was the additional time I spent in that lovely city.

Typically, my picture for the Newsletter is a photograph of me in a travel location I have recently been to, often at a Scientific conference. This year, however, my picture is of me, at home, by my computer. This is where I have been for many months, like almost everyone else. While it has not been very exciting, it has been necessary, and I have gotten used to this as my 'New Normal'. Another change this year will be for the format of the annual Symposium. The organizing committee in Canada, working with the ISCEV executive board, are busy planning our first 'Virtual Symposium'. This is actually more challenging than one might imagine, because there are many options to consider during this planning process. The annual ISCEV Symposium utilizes a similar format each year, so those of us involved with planning these meetings have developed certain strategies to make this planning easier. Planning a virtual meeting is quite different, however, and is challenging in its own way. Rest assured, however, that the



planning committee is working very diligently on this and we will do our best to bring the membership the best virtual meeting we can!

So while the annual Symposium may not look like the 'typical' ISCEV meeting, it will in fact contain many of the same elements as always; many varied and interesting presentations, including paper and poster type sessions, a keynote speaker, a clinical cases session, etc. Unfortunately, there will be aspects that we will all miss; having a drink or sharing a meal with an old friend and colleague, meeting people face to face, learning the culture of a new location. We will still have the opportunity to interact with other ISCEV members using modern day on-line tools such as chat rooms, so we can all strengthen our abilities to use new ways to communicate. We can also look forward to 2021, when we may be able to meet again in person and enjoy the local hospitality of the ISCEV meeting organizers.

On the home front, I am working to increase our digital information storage and decrease the ISCEV footprint a bit, by starting to digitize some of the information stored on paper and working to create more global manuals and guidance. I hope that this will help to increase our Society's organizational structure and allow easier access to materials. As well, I continue to manage new membership and enjoy welcoming new members to our Society. I encourage everyone who has not yet paid his or her membership dues this year to please do so, and also to attend the 2020 Symposium. I cannot wait to see you there!

Karen Holopigian, ISCEV Secretary-General

Report of the Director of Education

I have a great job! As Director of Education I arrange the ISCEV symposium human clinical visual electrophysiology course. I get to work with exceptional educators from across the globe, including Suresh Viswanathan who coordinates the animal course. I learn new things in every course, refreshing and updating my understanding. I am not alone in this, it's wonderful to see new and experienced participants attend each year.



In Seoul, South Korea the 2019 ISCEV course was hosted impeccably at the medical school by Prof. Ohn's energetic team. There were many highlights. I will remember the charm of the 'Narnia wardrobe', a secret door at the back of the stage through which the participants of the animal course disappeared to access the classroom. I am very grateful to the international faculty of 2019 for giving their time freely and delivering a high quality, up-to-date programme that incorporated techniques, clinical cases, recent research and updated guidelines, masterclasses and quizzes. The feedback was been excellent and I am delighted that the 2019 courses were so well received.



The faculty were Michael Bach, Paul Constable, Ruth Hamilton, Graham Holder, Bo Lei, Seong-Woo Kim, Mineo Kondo, Oliver Marmoy, Daphne McCulloch, Tae Kwan Park, Ido Perlman, Anthony Robson, Mathias Seeliger, Dorothy Thompson, Sinji Ueno and Suresh Viswanathan. We were greatly helped again by the generous support of the manufacturers and local teams to facilitate practical recording demonstrations and by the engagement of exceptional and enthusiastic course participants.

I am also heartened to see how many visual electrophysiology courses are now available across the globe. These have been flourishing through the energy of ISCEV members, such as the education and training in China which

Prof. Zheng Qin Yin and Shi Ying Li showcased in an excellent DVD. There is more to be done, though! Wanda Pfeiffer and colleagues identified a need for technical training and accreditation in clinical visual electrophysiology in USA. I spoke of this at the 2020 AGM and immediately a number of US ISCEV members volunteered to help develop these education initiatives, with the support of Laura Frishman, VP Americas. I

know that these endeavors will take time and persistence, but from the energy and commitment so far shown I am confident of success.

2020 is very different. We all continue to be affected by the COVID19 pandemic, touched directly and indirectly by its grim and unforgiving enormity. The challenges evolve as each month passes. There are some silver linings, such as community kindness, resetting our environment and importantly the global collaboration to learn from each other's experiences.

Virtual communication is the new normal, together with glitch, echo and pixellation! To organize a virtual symposium and course during COVID19 requires understanding, kindness and close collaboration. ISCEV exemplifies this. The 2020 ISCEV course will be virtual and delivered in partnership with the Moorfield's Clinical Visual Electrophysiology course, organised by Anthony Robson and colleagues at UCL. This unique co-operation, prompted by a serendipitous coincidence of September timing, will increase further the diversity of teaching. I hope many of you, including those less able to travel to previous meetings, will join us on-line. I am confident that ISCEV in the future will be able to provide more hybrid learning opportunities to a wider audience as a result of 2020. Thank you all for supporting, participating and contributing to ISCEV courses, and for making them fun as well as successful.

Dorothy Thompson, ISCEV Director of Education

Report of the Director of Standards

The ISCEV extended protocols are intended to facilitate the development of clinically useful techniques that do not yet have wide enough application to warrant a more stringently defined ISCEV standard. Several extended protocols have been published since 2018, including those for the DA red flash ERG, photopic On-Off ERG, photopic negative response (PhNR) and stimulus-response series for both the DA full-field ERG b-wave and LA full-field ERG. Work has continued and further publications earlier this year described protocols for the S-cone ERG (committee Ido Perlman, Mineo Kondo, Enid Chelva, Anthony Robson and Graham Holder) and for the derivation and analysis of the strong flash rod-isolated ERG a-wave (committee Mitch Brigell, Brett Jeffrey, Omar Mahroo and Radouil Tzekov). Additionally, the ISCEV extended protocol for VEP methods of estimation of visual acuity (committee Ruth Hamilton, Michael Bach, Sven Heinrich, Michael Hoffmann, Vernon Odom, Daphne McCulloch and Dorothy Thompson) was approved for publication recently. The latter will complete the series of eight extended protocols that were initially proposed and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee chairs and committee members for sharing their expertise and for generously giving their time. I am also grateful for the involvement and feedback of ISCEV members, for numerous incisive reviews, constructive criticism and suggestions.



To standardize new methods further and to maintain relevance, it will be vital to develop and refine the existing extended protocols and to consider new procedures. Your ongoing feedback will be essential to assess whether the current format is appropriate, to help establish how widely methods are adopted and whether further distillation of techniques can be justified. I also encourage you to submit new proposals. The formal requirement is for written submissions to be supported by three ISCEV members not linked to the same group or laboratory. Proposals should be less than 700 words excluding references, should be addressed to the Director of Standards, and must include a title, names of proposers, a description of clinical need and a brief summary of protocol and variations. Please feel free to contact me directly should you wish to outline or discuss potential extended protocols or proposals prior to submission.

At the forthcoming virtual ISCEV 2020 symposium it is planned to include an "ISCEV standards" session with the focus on the ISCEV standard for the multifocal ERG, last published in 2012. A committee was convened earlier this year and included Michael Hoffmann (committee chair), Mineo Kondo, Michael Bach, Shiyong Li, Sinead Walker, Karen Holopigian, Suresh Viswanathan and Anthony Robson. Under Michael's Hoffman's leadership work has progressed and it is intended to post the new draft on the ISCEV website prior to the ISCEV meeting. Your prompt feedback and comments would again be greatly appreciated.

Anthony Robson, ISCEV Director of Standards

Editor-in-Chief, Documenta Ophthalmologica

Dear ISCEV members,

Since January 2019, the Editorial team has handled more than 227 manuscripts. Of these, 80 were accepted, 127 rejected, 5 withdrawn and 15 are still under review. Based on the latter, our acceptance rate would be 60% (80/132). However, for 110 of the 132 papers that were rejected (or withdrawn), this decision was reached due to the fact that the manuscript did not address an issue that was compatible with the mission of our journal which is the promotion of visual electrophysiology. This brings the acceptance rate of our journal to 82%; several of those papers being accepted after 3–4 rounds of reviews, something seldom done in other journals. Of the 127 manuscripts rejected, 110 were not submitted to the review process since they did not address a topic that was compatible with the mission of our journal, which is to promote visual electrophysiology. Consequently, of the 85% of the manuscripts rejected, 110 were turned down because they did not address an issue a large percentage of the papers rejected were done so due to the fact that the topic covered was not compatible with the mission of our journal which is visual electrophysiology.



Of the eighty papers that were published, 60% were research manuscripts, 25% clinical case reports and the remainder 15% included: reviews, standards, letters to the Editor, extended protocols, etc. While standards and extended protocols (i.e., 10% of all submissions) were accepted without going through the review process, of the remainder, 29% were accepted after the first round of review (R1 stage), 33% after the second round and 13% after 3 or more rounds of reviews. Clearly, the mission of our journal is not only to promote the discussion on issues related to visual electrophysiology (basic and clinical) but also to help potential contributors to achieve the best paper possible so that our mission reaches its goal. Very few (if any) journals go to that extent to help colleagues publish the result of their research. It goes without saying that this would not have been made possible without the hard work and dedication of the Associate Editors (Suresh Viswanathan, Mineo Kondo and Jan Kremers), our Managing Editor (Diana Epstein) as well as all those who volunteered their time to the review process. Without their continued support, our Journal would not be what it is today, and I wholeheartedly thank them for that. Probably one of the most important aspects of the job of Associate Editors is to identify colleague clinicians and scientists whom they feel are the most competent to review a given paper. This exercise can also be a very frustrating due to the relatively high decline-to-review rate. Consequently, I would also like to take advantage of my annual report to urge the ISCEV community to respond positively when approached to review manuscripts for our Journal. After all, you are the experts in Visual Electrophysiology.

Unfortunately, this year Documenta's impact factor dropped from 1.46 to 1.294. This is of course a disappointment. However, one must remember that our journal is a sub-specialty journal in a relatively small field of ophthalmology. Consequently, our impact should not come as a surprise. Hopefully, our recently published extended protocols and standards will help increase our IF provided –of course– that they are cited. This should not however discourage you from reading our Journal, submit your work to it and, when appropriate, cite the manuscripts that we have published as this will also significantly increase the visibility of our Journal and of our trade as well.

Pierre Lachapelle, Editor-In-Chief Documenta Ophthalmologica

Director of International Communications

Dear friends and colleagues,

With breaks in between I have administered our website for altogether 16 years now, starting in 1996. Much has changed since, and the Internet has gained an enormous influence on our life (don't get me started on *a*-social networks 😊). The following email (a scam, of course) may amuse you:

Dear Team at iscev.org,

Not sure if you knew this but your website iscev.org has some problems that you might want to consider looking into. I spent 2–3 minutes looking around and found:

– It doesn't work properly on Mobile Phones, at all (which is how people browse the web these days).



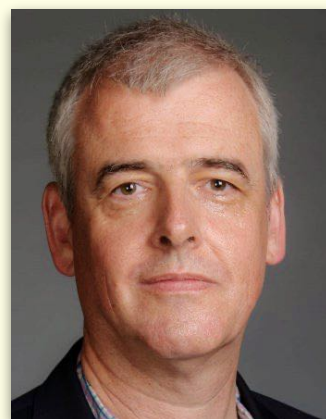
- It doesn't adjust properly when you resize the screen (Google recommends RESPONSIVE Websites rather than ADAPTIVE)
- It's hard to read on larger displays
- The design looks really, really dated compared to some of your competitors.

I get those emails (for my own site) all the time and was glad that, finally, the ISCEV site also received a little love. But joking aside: If you have suggestions to improve anything relating to our ISCEV-wide communication, I'm very open to suggestions; you may even agree with bespoke email.

Michael Bach, ISCEV Director of International Communications

Treasurer's Report

As always, the spreadsheet summarizing ISCEV's finances is the central piece of information in the treasurer's report. It displays the financial data for 2019 and retrospectively for a period of 10 years (this year for 2009–2019). The Wild Apricot webpage is now the exclusive site for the annual membership dues payments, which are credited to the PayPal account as indicated in the spreadsheet under 'Membership dues via PP'. The contracts related to direct credit card payments and handling have been terminated. Generally, amounts in EUR (right aligned) and USD (left aligned and marked with a '\$' sign) are listed separately to enhance transparency of the monetary transactions of our international society. 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 official (Deutsche Bundesbank) rate on the 31.12. of



Treasurers Report											
(Euro)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Income											
Membership dues via bank account	23.521,15	25.518,88	29.472,77	28.903,42	29.400,00	29.000,00	30.322,31	29.805,49	23.338,47	26.552,40	428,03
Membership dues via PP	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1.887,15	5.145,36	24.506,69
Symposium income through treasurers office	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	44.069,97	120.532,52	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Bank account interests EUR	1.785,54	1.536,14	1.067,59	111,99	1.289,84	728,72	534,85	43,04	150,26	0,00	0,00
Bank account interests USD							\$3,95	\$0,14	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$0,00
Publisher DOOP payment	6.738,15	6.158,80	25.041,46	13.409,00	15.549,58	7.108,81	6.448,87	22.927,89	16.505,53	17.030,22	16.449,01
Symposium return (income & returned pre-financing)	1.919,79	0,00	14.823,25	5.000,00	0,00	0,00	6.504,45	0,00	0,00	\$6.185,60	\$0,00
Dawson Lecture USD (2016 via Symposium organ.)						\$4.800,00	\$4.785,00	\$0,00	\$4.800,00		
Income EUR						157.370,05	43.810,48	52.776,42	41.881,41	48.727,98	41.383,73
Income USD						\$4.800,00	\$4.785,00	\$3,95	\$4.800,14	\$6.185,60	\$0,00
Income USD in EUR (31.12.XX)						3.531,80	4.395,15	3,75	4.002,45	5.402,27	0,00
Total Income (EUR)	33.964,63	33.213,82	70.405,07	47.424,41	90.309,39	160.901,85	48.205,63	52.780,17	45.883,86	54.130,25	41.383,73
Dawson Lecture & TGs \$								\$0,00	\$9.600,00	\$0,00	
Marmor Award \$						\$5.980,00	\$0,00	\$0,82	\$0,03	\$6.000,00	\$0,00
Expenditure											
Treasurers office	0,00	30,00	96,75	121,26	1.213,90	0,00	194,25	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Check handling fees, bank charges	132,60	207,54	340,94	153,41	327,34	516,84	193,19	65,15	75,52	165,75	188,67
Credit card handling fees	1.190,20	1.443,39	1.617,38	1.564,51	3.686,65	6.504,08	354,56	353,31	334,99	355,81	214,20
Internet services	212,96	212,96	598,79	1.605,26	2.961,71	2.765,46	96,35	691,25	989,14	896,02	1.103,78
Lawyer	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	1.356,41
Accounting	0,00	0,00	0,00	2.501,98	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Secretary general office / ISCEV board	4.203,40	0,00	0,00	6.951,50	0,00	0,00	0,00	2.000,00	2.752,48	479,51	0,00
Secretary general office / ISCEV board USD						\$1.706,68	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$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	26.250,00	26.248,71	28.569,00	0,00	52.483,50	31.779,00	28.087,50	19.340,25	3.570,00	63.930,75	29.809,59
Symposium financing	9.087,03	18.930,85	6.199,02	571,79	20.562,82	120.340,20	0,00	47.372,92	0,00	15.000,00	0,00
Travel grants EUR	6.990,00	8.000,00	4.300,00	5.000,00	4.685,00	8.962,99	5.790,00	5.590,00	5.080,64	3.613,54	0,00
Travel grants USD										\$6.200,00	\$0,00
Dawson Lecture (separate Acct. from 2018 on)			3.600,00	3.500,00	3.600,00	3.531,80	0,00	0,00	0,00	\$4.800,00	\$0,00
Lab visits, YSCEV support, local symposia	6.343,81	0,00	4.500,00	3.500,00	2.500,00	0,00	0,00	300,00	1.090,00		
Expenditure EUR	54.410,00	55.073,45	49.821,88	25.469,71	92.020,92	174.400,37	36.422,53	75.712,88	13.892,77	84.441,38	32.672,65
Expenditure USD						\$0,00	\$1.706,68	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$11.000,00	\$0,00
Expenditure USD in EUR (31.12.XX)						0,00	1.567,63	0,00	0,00	9.606,99	0,00
Total Expenditure	54.410,00	55.073,45	49.821,88	25.469,71	92.020,92	174.400,37	37.990,16	75.712,88	13.892,77	94.048,37	32.672,65
Dawson Lecture & TGs \$						\$500,00	\$1.000,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$5.222,42	\$0,00
Marmor Award \$						\$500,00	\$1.000,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$5.018,41	\$0,00
Balance											
Total Income - Total Expenditure EUR	-20.445,37	-21.859,63	20.583,19	21.954,70	-1.711,53	-17.030,32	7.387,95	-22.936,46	27.988,64	-35.713,40	8.711,08
Total Income - Total Expenditure USD						\$4.800,00	\$3.078,32	\$3,95	\$4.800,14	\$-4.814,40	\$0,00
Income - Expenditure Dawson Lecture & TGs USD									\$0,00	\$4.377,58	\$0,00
Income - Expenditure Marmor Award USD						\$5.480,00	\$-1.000,00	\$0,82	\$0,03	\$981,59	\$0,00
Assets (as of 31.12.XX)							1,0887	1,0541	1,1993	1,1450	1,1234
USD Account						\$18.416,46	\$21.494,78	\$21.498,73	\$72.810,90	\$67.996,50	\$67.996,50
USD Account in EUR	837,38	492,95	4.342,99	7.871,62	11.101,87	15.220,89	19.743,53	20.395,34	60.711,16	59.385,59	60.527,42
EURO Accounts	9.544,35	6.784,39	75.735,72	23.127,03	33.393,44	38.693,08	98.057,71	75.121,25	103.109,89	67.396,49	76.107,57
Deposit (terminated 2017 due to EU law change; USD value \$ 46.512,03)	101.385,41	84.771,43	35.166,30	109.917,72	102.507,97	87.700,00	41.787,70	43.551,04	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total Assets	111.767,14	92.048,77	115.245,01	140.916,37	147.003,28	141.613,97	159.588,94	139.067,63	163.821,05	126.782,08	136.634,99
Dawson Lecture & TGs USD Account \$									\$0,00	\$4.377,58	\$4.377,58
Marmor Award USD Account \$						\$5.480,00	\$4.480,00	\$4.480,82	\$4.480,85	\$5.462,44	\$5.462,44

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 2019 was again balanced and well within the margin of fluctuation over the past years. As an outlook, a new contract regarding DOOP has become effective in 2020, which will among other things restructure the payments to and from Springer for the upcoming 5 years. It was therefore important to have the contract draft validated by a law firm (see item 'Lawyer') to avoid potential legal issues and/or

monetary losses. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding the treasurer's report. I look forward to seeing you, in particular at the next non-virtual meeting.

Mathias Seeliger, ISCEV Treasurer

Vice-President Americas

I write this report from the Americas with the hope that society members in all regions of the world are doing well. This year, 2020, has been a challenging one for all of us, due to the coronavirus pandemic. It has been necessary to take extensive precautions at home, and to avoid travel. As a consequence there have been cancellations, one after another, of the face to face scientific meetings that we have relied upon each year for opportunities to present our research, to attend courses, as well as to interact with colleagues. This year, when the annual meeting of ARVO, planned for the first week of May in Baltimore, was cancelled, it was also necessary to cancel our ISCEV@ARVO meeting that was to occur on the day before ARVO. Fortunately, when the 58th ISCEV symposium in 2020, to be held in Les Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Québec, Canada, faced the same fate, Professor Pierre Lachapelle and the organizing team replaced it with a virtual meeting that promises to be a great success. The virtual meeting is approaching and will take place from 14–16 September 2020.



Next year, the 2021 meeting of ARVO is planned to occur in San Francisco, with ISCEV@ARVO placed again on the Saturday (May 1) preceding the ARVO meeting. Society members are encouraged to respond to the call for ISCEV@ARVO speakers and attendees that they will receive early in 2021, pending confirmation of the ARVO meeting. The next time that an ISCEV meeting is scheduled to occur in the Americas is 2023. Exciting proposals for that meeting will be presented at the 2020 virtual meeting.

Very best wishes to members of ISCEV. I look forward to seeing you soon at the 2020 virtual meeting.

Laura Frishman, ISCEV Vice President Americas

Vice-President Asia & Australasia

I am very happy to report that the Ophthalmologists and Visual Scientists in Asia & Oceania have had many opportunities this past year to learn the latest findings in ophthalmology and visual electrophysiology. Here is a summary of the Symposiums and Meetings that have taken place or are planned.

The 57th ISCEV Symposium and Course were successfully held in Seoul, Korea on 7–10 October 2019. A total of 281 delegates from all over the world enjoyed 65 oral presentations and 53 poster presentations. The Dawson Award was awarded to Professor Hyeong Gon Yu of Seoul National University, and the Adachi Award was awarded to Professor Daphne McCulloch of University of Waterloo, Canada. An Electrophysiology Session was also held during 121st Korean Ophthalmological Annual Meeting in Busan, Korea on 5–7 April 2019. All agreed that it was a very good comprehensive meeting. The 35th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress had been planned to be held in Xiamen, China on 22–26 April 2020. The planned speakers were Drs. Kaoru Fujinami, Tharikarn Sujirakul, Shi-Ying Li, Ruifang Sui, Graham Holder, Mei-Ying Boon and Hoon-Dong Kim. However, this congress was cancelled due to global uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 68th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (JSCEV) will be held in Kobe on 29–30 September 2020. This meeting will be hosted by Dr. Makoto Nakamura of the Kobe University, Kobe, Japan. Special lectures will be given by Professor Hiroaki Wake of Nagoya University. The 24th Congress of the Chinese Ophthalmological Society (CCOS) was planned to be held in Xiamen on 22–26 April 2020 in association with APAO. Now, it was postponed and planned to be held on 5–8 August 2020 in Xiamen. The electrophysiology session will be hosted by Drs. Zheng Qin Yin and Shiyong Li, and will be held on 2 days. The 14th Congress of Ophthalmologists in Chinese Medical Doctor Association (CMDA) will be held on 24–27 September in Xian, China. The electrophysiology session will be partly virtual and hosted by Dr. Zheng Qin Yin and Shiyong Li.



We thank the senior members of ISCEV for the informative presentations and lessons. We all look forward to the time when this corona pandemic is controlled, and we can have face-to-face meetings and enjoy our fellowships as before.

Mineo Kondo, ISCEV Vice President Asia & Australasia

Vice-President Europe & Africa

Four months ago, I was anticipating filing my final annual report as Vice President with the usual round-up of achievements in visual electrophysiology in Europe and Africa. Who would have thought that something as small as a RNA virus was about to change all of this? Although some countries have seen relatively few deaths from Covid-19, the impact of the epidemic on clinical and scientific practice around the world has been profound. Cancellation or postponement of most scientific meetings is just the tip of the iceberg. Most social, clinical and scientific activities have been ruthlessly prioritized into “essential” or “non-essential”, and in many hospitals, this has resulted in a sharp fall in the number of visual electrophysiology tests undertaken and a sharp increase in the number of patients awaiting tests. Testing has continued in a limited way with reduced efficiency – urgent cases only, personal protective equipment, additional cleaning routines. Some clinicians, clinical scientists and technicians (including ISCEV members) have been redeployed to help with the fight against coronavirus.



By the time we have ISCEV’s first virtual congress in September, hopefully the peak of the epidemic will be past in most countries, but what will the “new normal” look like for visual electrophysiology labs in the coming months? Will “virtual” scientific conferences become a regular occurrence in the future? What new discoveries in vision science will emerge from the events of the last few months? What new skills will ISCEV members returning from redeployment bring back to their labs and clinics? My successor will be able to reflect further on these questions next year. It will be a difficult year for ISCEV members, but I am sure that they, and visual electrophysiology will emerge stronger.

Richard Smith, ISCEV Vice President Europe and Africa

The Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award

The annual Dodt award is presented each year to a young scientist working in the field of clinical electrophysiology of vision. This award celebrates the life of Eberhard Dodt, a luminary in the field of clinical electrophysiology. The award acknowledges the scientist that the Dodt Adjudication Panel feels has made the best presentation at the Annual Symposium of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV).

In 2019, the 24th annual Dodt award was presented to Oliver Marmoy. Oliver is from the Tony Kriss Visual Electrophysiology Unit at the Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, UK. His presentation was entitled “Diagnosing hemianopic field defects through the differing generators of the pattern onset and offset VEP”. The accompanying photograph shows Professor Patrizia Tormene, President of ISCEV, 2012–2019, presenting the Dodt award to Dr. Oliver Marmoy.



The Emiko Adachi Award & Lecture

Professor Daphne L McCulloch from the University of Waterloo, Canada, presented the 14th annual Emiko Adachi lecture. Professor McCulloch received the prestigious award at the 2018 Symposium in Reims, France and per the award guidelines, she presented her lecture entitled “What can my baby see? Clinical electrophysiology of infant vision” at the 2019 Symposium in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Professor McCulloch was introduced by Dr. Ruth Hamilton and is shown on the right giving her presentation.

The criteria for the award, generously endowed by Professor Emiko Adachi upon her retirement

from the Department of Ophthalmology at Chiba University in Japan, are: The recipient shall be a member of ISCEV, have a record of outstanding service to ISCEV over a long period and shall have made a significant scientific contribution to clinical electrophysiology of vision.

In 2019, the Adachi committee broke from standard tradition and selected two Adachi award winners. The



award was presented to two outstanding ISCEV members, Dr. Mitchell Brigell and Professor Pierre Lachapelle. Due to the virtual nature of the 2020 Symposium, no Adachi lecture will be presented. It is currently anticipated that Dr. Brigell will present his award lecture in 2021 at the Liverpool Symposium and Professor Lachapelle will present his lecture in Kyoto in 2022. Professor Emiko Adachi is shown presenting the award to Professor Lachapelle in the photograph below (Dr. Brigell was not present at the 2019 Symposium to receive his award).

The Dawson Memorial Lecture

The 2019 Dawson award was presented by Professor Hyeong Gon Yu from Seoul National University College of Medicine and Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul, Republic of Korea. His very interesting talk was entitled: “Genetic screening and clinical characterization for inherited retinal disease.” This was the 9th annual Dawson Memorial Lecture. The lecture is presented annually at the ISEV Symposium and is made possible by a generous endowment in the memory of Dr William Woodson Dawson by his widow, Judyth Dawson. The endowment is funded by the proceeds from the trademark of the famous Dawson-Trick-Litzkow (DTL) corneal electrode, which is widely used in electrophysiology. Professor Yu is shown receiving his award certificate from Professor Patrizia Tormene, the immediate past president of ISCEV.

In addition to the Dawson lecture, there were several invited lectures. One lecture was presented by Professor Yozo Miyake. Dr. Miyake is a past president of ISCEV, and his presidency ranged from 2000 until 2004. Professor Miyake is affiliated with Kobe Eye Center and Next Vision. Professor Miyake’s lecture was entitled “Acute Diffuse Occult Inner Retinopathy (ADOIR)”.



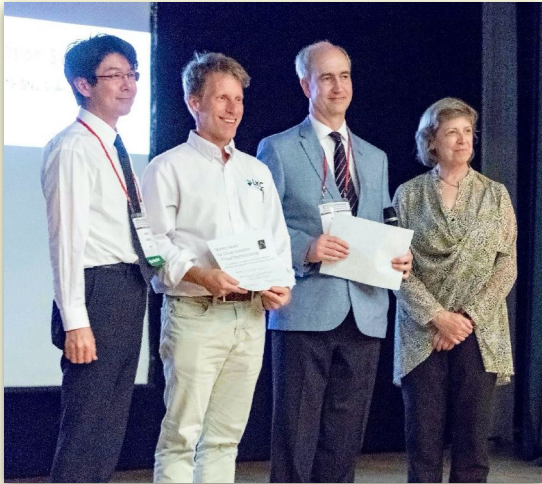
Another invited lecture at the Seoul Symposium was presented by Professor Patrick Yu-Wai-Man entitled “Inherited Optic Neuropathies – from Genes to Treatment”. Professor Yu-Wai-Man is from the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.

In the photograph on the left, Professor Miyake is shown receiving a certificate from Professor Young Hoon Ohn, the local Symposium organizer.



The Marmor Award

In 2019, there was one winner of the Marmor Award for an initial innovative project as well as one follow-up award winner. The Marmor award is generously endowed by Professor Michael Marmor, with the following aims: (1) improve the practicality of electrophysiology procedures: e.g. speed, reliability, ease, cost; and (2) widen the clinical applicability of our procedures to individual patients: e.g. to clarify common diseases or to evaluate diseases not previously amenable to testing. The award recipients are evaluated by the Marmor Award committee using the above criteria.



The 2019 award for an initial innovative project was presented to Dr. Mitch Brigell and Dr. Quentin Davis, for a presentation entitled: “Predictive value of the flicker ERG in patients with diabetic retinopathy”. The photograph shows Dr. Quentin Davis with some of the Marmor Committee members (Dr. Mineo Kondo, Dr. Richard Smith and Dr. Mary Johnson; Dr. Brigell was not present).

The 2019 award for a follow-up project (given two years after the initial presentation) was presented to a team of scientists for their work on “Development of a new commercial contact lens electrode”. This team

(shown in the photograph with some members of the Marmor Committee) was comprised of Drs. John Hetling, Shreshta Patangay, Jason Park, J. Jason McAnany, and Brett Jeffrey from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, RetMap, Inc., USA and the National Eye Institute/NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA.



Travel Grants



Seven travel grants were awarded to young electrophysiologists to help defray the travel costs to attend the Symposium; some of this funding derived from extra monies from the Dawson award, donated by Judyth Dawson. The travel grant winners were from various electrophysiology laboratories from around the world. Some of the travel grant winners are shown in the photograph below with Professor Tormene and the travel grant committee (Drs. Karen Holopigian, Mathias Seeliger, Mineo Kondo and Richard Smith).

Karen Holopigian

YSCEV @ ISCEV 2019

When we last met in Seoul for the ISCEV 2019 international symposium we had the great privilege to discuss people's vision for job opportunities in the field of Visual Electrophysiology by hearing from the senior ISCEV members themselves about their successful journey in the field. Career tracks can be hard to navigate and we hope it highlighted the many available paths for the new generation people's vision of future job opportunities in the field.

This year will be in the form of a virtual conference but I am looking forward to meeting you all in a few months!

Our YSCEV Facebook group is still active and growing. Join us to stay informed about potential collaborations between young researchers and physicians involved in electrophysiology procedures. All thoughts, ideas, techniques, and job opportunities in the field of electrophysiology of vision are welcome.



Lucia Ambrosio

ISCEV Symposium 2020: VIRTUAL

Dear members of the ISCEV family,

We had planned an exciting meeting for this year's ISCEV Symposium, and we were eager to show you our knowhow, once more. But then came COVID-19. We had to throw away more than two years of regular meetings, including two trips to the site more than 1000 Km from Montreal, and start afresh with a new challenge: organize the first ISCEV Virtual Symposium. As I am writing this report, we have nearly completed the scientific program that will include more than 65 presentations (posters and talks), the Dawson lecture, the clinical case session as well as the standard session. Our team is also working hard to come up with a social program that will be (and feel) as close as possible to what the face-to-face meeting would have been (minus the sea, sand and sun), in the true ISCEV tradition and spirit. The virtual meeting will take place from 14–16 September 2020 and details on the scientific and social programs, including the traditional ISCEV Olympics, as well as instructions on how to register and reach us will be available on our website (ISCEV2020.ca) soon. All of this would not have been possible without the tremendous hard work of all the members of the original ISCEV 2020 team and members of the ISCEV Board who have recently joined us to facilitate the transition.

We hope that you will enthusiastically seize the occasion to be part of the *1st ISCEV Virtual Symposium*. We are confident that it will be a great meeting to remember.

ISCEV 2020 Organizing Committee: *Allison L. Dorfman, Anna Polosa, Mercedes Gauthier, Julie Racine, Shasha Lv, Michelle McKerral, Jacqueline Orquin, Marie-Sylvie Roy, Marc Hébert, Dave St-Amour, François Tremblay, Ruth Hamilton, Karen Holopigian, Pierre Lachapelle and Mitch Brigell (ISCEV Symposium Coordinator)*

Recollections of a Symposium, Seoul 2019



Welcome reception

In October 2019, the 57th ISCEV meeting was held in Seoul, Korea. This was the 4th time I attended an ISCEV meeting, but it was very different from other times because Korea hosted it for the first time in the history of the ISCEV Symposium. As a program director, I had prepared an Accompanying Person Program for a long time, and I traveled around Seoul for 4 days with my colleagues' family and friends. As a result, I didn't have time to study and discuss while listening to lectures in the place where the conference was in progress.

On the first day of the main symposium, it rained and we failed to climb the Seoul Tower Observatory, which was supposed to go. Instead, we went to Bukchon Hanok Village, made traditional crafts, and toured Korean



Bukchon Hanok village

traditional houses. The bright and cool weather continued from the second day, and after looking around Gwanghwamun Square and Cheonggyecheon streams, we were able to climb over to the Observatory of the Seoul Tower and look down on the city of Seoul at a glance. On the afternoon of the second day, we arrived at the ISCEV Olympics venue, the Korean Stone Art Museum. The Museum was on a mountainside and was a great place with a panoramic view. Everyone liked the unique atmosphere of traditional stone crafts from Korea, including Buddha statues. The DMZ was the number one place I wanted to show to the attendees, but the epidemic of African Swine Fever prevented us from going around the area as it was banned. I inevitably changed the destination to Yongin Folk Village. I was very thankful that the participants had fun wearing a hanbok (Korean traditional clothing) and taking commemorative photos.

I hope that the moment we met in Seoul for the first time, going to an unfamiliar destination, making Korean food and Korean traditional masks, walking and talking to each other, will remain a happy memory for all participants.

These were places I haven't been to since I was busy working as an ophthalmologist even though I lived in Seoul for 30 years. This program was a valuable opportunity for myself to learn more about Seoul. I would like to express my special thanks to Eun-Sook Han, a tour guide who kindly helped us to explore the tourist attractions.



Soo Young Lee, ISCEV 2019 Symposium Program Director.

Chinese Language Translations of ISCEV Standards

We are happy to report that a team of members in China have been working on translating the ISCEV standards into the Chinese language.

Our recent update from Shiying Li, ISCEV board member, is that the team has finished the Chinese translation of four ISCEV documents. These documents are:

- 1) ISCEV guide to visual electrodiagnostic procedures
- 2) ISCEV standard for full-field clinical electroretinography
- 3) ISCEV standard for clinical multifocal electroretinography
- 4) ISCEV standard for clinical visual evoked potentials

In addition, Shiying reported that these four translations have been accepted by the “Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology”, which he reports as the top Ophthalmology journal in China. The first one to be published will be the “ISCEV guide to visual electrodiagnostic procedures”. This is expected to be published in the current month. Other translations will be published at a later date, based on page limitations.

These are virtual translations and the copyright transfer was purchased from Springer, to allow for publication. This is indeed good news for our Chinese speaking members and we thank all of those who worked on these translations.

Karen Holopigan

Minutes of the 2019 ISCEV Membership Meeting (draft for approval)

The minutes were published (with announcement) on our website and can be perused here:

https://iscev.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/minutes/ISCEV_MembMins2019.pdf

Please acquaint yourself with these meeting minutes so you can make an informed decision whether to accept them as a true representation during the upcoming virtual membership meeting on 2020-09-16.

2020 Membership meeting agenda

ISCEV 2020 Membership meeting: all ISCEV members in good standing who are registered for the 2020 meeting may attend. Junior and category 2 Emeritus members may attend, but do not have voting rights. Please refer to the reports in the 2020 Newsletter.

AGENDA

1. Opening & welcome by the President
 2. Minutes of 2019 Membership Meeting for approval
 3. Report from the Symposium Organiser
 4. ISCEV Officers' reports
 - Secretary-General; Editor-in-Chief; Director of Education; Director of Standards; Director of International Communications; Vice presidents Europa/Africa, Asia/Australia, Americas
 5. Exoneration of the Board
 6. Treasurer
 - Report, exoneration
 7. Highlights from the ISCEV Board of Directors Meeting
 8. Elections
 - Vice-President Europe & Africa: Mr Richard Smith has completed two terms. One nomination, Dr Dorothy Thompson, has been received. If elected, Dr Thompson would complete her final year as Director of Education with continued support from Member-at-large Dr Suresh Viswanathan. The Board have endorsed this approach.
 - Director of International Communications: Professor Michael Bach has completed two terms. No nominations have been received: Professor Bach has agreed to stand for a further term in the event of no other nominations.
 - Director of Standards: Dr Anthony Robson has completed one term, and is willing to stand for a second term.
 - Member-at-large (no geographical restriction): Professor Zheng Qin Yin has completed two terms. Three nominations were received: Professor Carl Arndt, Professor John Grigg and Professor Kaoru Fujinami.
 - Secretary-General: Dr Karen Holopigian has completed one term and is willing to serve a second term. Her re-appointment has been endorsed by the Board and membership ratification is sought.
 - Honorary member: Professor Mike Marmor has been proposed by the Board for honorary membership of the Society and membership ratification is sought.
 9. Future ISCEV Symposia
 - 2021, Liverpool, UK – presentation by Professor Tony Fisher & BriSCEV
 - 2022, Kyoto, Japan – presentation by Professor Masayuki Horiguchi
 - 2023 Americas host: two invitations are extended to the membership
 - Iles de la Madeleine, Canada – Dr Allison Dorfman & team
 - Madison, Wisconsin, USA – Dr Jim Verhoeve & team
 10. Other business
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