ISCEV Newsletter 2021

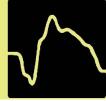


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This is the yearly newsletter of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV), compiled from contributions by members and officers.

Michael Bach ISCEV Director of International Communications

From the President

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is worth remembering that we are an International Society. Although many of us live in countries which have made fast progress with COVID19 vaccinations, many of us do not, and must continue to work unvaccinated amidst rising infection rates. It was this consideration which led us reluctantly to postpone our next three meetings by one year each. Meeting many people indoors following international travel constitutes high-risk behaviour when global deaths are increasing beyond 4 million and the global vaccination level is only 13%.

Our short virtual meeting in September will serve two important functions: firstly to hold the Membership meeting where members can question the Board



on their activities over the past year and secondly, to hold a Standards session. Tony Robson has led a team drafting the revised ERG Standard, its seventh revision. All members have been invited to read the draft and email Tony with comments by 31 August 2021. We will all miss the scientific sessions this year, but let's use the opportunity to prepare more and better work to present in person in Liverpool 2022.

The current draft revision remains very similar to its predecessors, but has one radical difference: it proposes a new abbreviated ERG protocol. If accepted, this starts to pave the way to a more diverse delivery model for our tests. Whilst complex, detailed assessments at highly specialised centres will always be required, alternative, accessible ways to deliver our essential tests to the huge numbers of people who cannot yet access their benefit is needed. We need our tests to be quicker and easier, less onerous for patients and trial subjects, and most of all, more widely available. I have spoken more on this subject in a commentary and an interview in Ophthalmology Times.

I have now served 19 months of my four-year term as President. In my candidate statement, I committed to five programmes to deliver my vision for the future of our Society:

- 1. Supporting the evolution of quicker and easier versions of our tests which are less onerous for our patients without loss of diagnostic power, and
- 2. Increasing worldwide accessibility to visual electrodiagnostics, particularly for developing economies and remote communities.

Some of you will have noticed the ERG draft revision proposes a new, abbreviated ERG protocol. This may prove controversial, not least due to healthcare financial models in some countries, but if accepted, this starts to pave the way to a more diverse delivery model for our tests. Complex, detailed assessments at highly specialised centres will always be required. However, tens of thousands of people worldwide cannot currently access our essential tests and so a different, simpler delivery model is needed. Abbreviated protocols which can be performed on portable devices is one possible means of achieving this, and I applaud the ERG revision committee for their far-sightedness.

3. Building technically-rich ISCEV teaching to educate the technicians we need to sustain our services.

A team including Dorothy Thompson, John Grigg, and USA members are developing online education modules tailored to employing, educating and retaining technicians, and seeking practical ways of mentoring trainees. USA-based centres first identified this need, but the longer-term aim is to deliver for all those who could benefit. We are also negotiating terms for ISCEV members to access an engaging and interactive e-learning ophthalmology course which includes a series of modules on visual electrophysiology written by Dorothy Thompson and BriSCEV colleagues.

4. Establishing a taskforce to improve diagnostic robustness via harmonised reference (normative) data.

I will shortly establish this taskforce. I should like to remove the difficult requirement of our Standards that all centres should acquire their own reference data, as this is seldom feasible. It is possible to safely and robustly use reference data acquired elsewhere (e.g. manufacturer's), or to adjust quality, legacy reference data in response to a protocol update, and I recently co-authored a guide to these processes.

Harmonised reference data remains the goal, and I would like to thank Professor Brendan Cooper, Professor of Respiratory & Sleep Physiology, for generously sharing his experience on the Global Lung Function Initiative Network, which publishes international, harmonized reference data for multiple lung function tests.

However, when we perform serial measurements on our patients, it is more relevant to ask "is a change significant?" (the "delta check") than to ask "is today's measurement normal?". Subject-based reference intervals are needed to detect significant worsening or improvement of a patient's measurement over serial recordings and can be calculated from as few as eight subjects, even using patient data. I exhort their use if you are unfamiliar and I am delighted that the draft ISCEV ERG Standard revision cites the delta check.

5. Creating ISCEV's green policy to reduce our carbon footprint and adverse environmental impact.

A working group led by Paul Constable has been considering the future of ISCEV meetings. Initially, the group was tasked with considering how our carbon footprint might be reduced, but with the onset of COVID19 they have gained key insights into what works and what doesn't work in online meetings – if you took the time to respond to their online poll, many thanks.

Beyond these programmes, ISCEV has also been considering a guideline for the Full-field Stimulus Threshold (FST) test; Shiying Li and colleagues from the Chinese Visual Physiology and Vision Science committee of the Chinese Ophthalmology Society have translated and published four ISCEV Standards/Guides (full-field ERG; mfERG; VEP and guide to visual electrodiagnostic procedures); and Pierre Lachapelle reports significant growth in submissions and article downloads, as well as faster turnaround times and an improved Impact Factor. Many ISCEV members have contributed to a flourishing online programme of courses and webinars.

Karen Holopigian, Mathias Seeliger, Michael Bach and I spend many hours maintaining ISCEV's engine, i.e. addressing legal, regulatory, tax, financial, and auditing issues; maintaining membership contacts, handling dues payments, addressing questions and problems; updating the website and writing and updating our library of policies and procedures. My grateful thanks to them, and to all the Board and Society members who give freely of their time, expertise and enthusiasm to further clinical electrophysiology of vision.

See you online in September, and please contact me if you have any comments about or contribution to IS-CEV's work.

Message from the Secretary-General

Greetings to the ISCEV community!

As most of you are now aware, the ISCEV Symposium in Liverpool has been postponed until 2022, due to the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic. When the Liverpool Symposium Committee began planning, it was with full expectations that a face-to-face Symposium was possible this year. The Symposium Committee met regularly throughout the past year, as they planned the type of Symposium that we have become accustomed to, with lovely banquet dinners, interactive sessions, invited lectures and coffee breaks to allow catch-up time with old and new friends. We were all so looking forward to this year's Symposium, since we were not able to meet in person in 2020. Sadly, this was not to be. Slowly, the realization that the Pandemic was still a global threat made the likelihood of a 2021 face-to-face Symposium less and less likely. Eventually, it was agreed that next year (2022) would be preferred for the Liverpool Sympo-



sium. This decision was not made lightly, but was reached after multiple discussions over several weeks. We will all continue to look forward to 2022 and the hope that a face-to-face Symposium will be feasible for next year.

The ISCEV board has continued to work hard at the business of keeping ISCEV running and in the past year we have continued with our usual tasks, as you will read elsewhere in this Newsletter. In addition, a core group (the Treasurer, the Director of International Communication and the Secretary General), under the excellent guidance of our new President, have worked to update some general policies. For example, the ISCEV Membership Policy has been updated. This updated policy was approved by the ISCEV Board in March, 2021 and is now posted on the ISCEV website (on the By-Laws page). Please read this if you get the opportunity, we hope this update will clarify some issues regarding payments that have arisen multiple times in previous years. If you do have any questions about membership or how to join ISCEV, please feel free to send me an e-mail (my contact information is on the ISCEV home page). Speaking of membership, I am happy to inform you that currently ISCEV has paid members from forty-two nations spanning six continents.

With best regards

Karen Holopigian, ISCEV Secretary-General

Report of the Director of Education

On-line learning is now the norm. Yet it was with some trepidation that ISCEV delivered its first on-line annual course last year in close collaboration and partnership with the Moorfield/UCL Clinical Visual Electrophysiology course, led by Tony Robson, ISCEV Director of Standards and Magella Neveu. We were all delighted by the participant response and the chance to include contributions from more than 20 faculty. The recorded course was available on-line for several months and comprised preparatory learning, video demonstrations, the Quiz, case discussions and live didactic lectures presented in short bitesize sessions. Not everything went to plan and we didn't get everything right, but despite the time zones it was a vibrant and successful meeting.



This was my last year as ISCEV Director of Education. It's been an honor and a challenge. Along the way I have used every opportunity to build upon the excellent foundation set by my predecessor Graham Holder. We have diversified the delivery and the scope of the course programme and have involved a wider faculty, including local hosts. We also extended the contact hours, increased the interaction with quiz sessions, small master classes and even ERG card games and now, we are on-line. It's been my privilege to learn from brilliant educators. Thank you all, participants and faculty, local organisers and manufacturers, for your generous contributions to the successful development of the courses over these years, and for sharing your passion and knowledge of electrophysiology.

Over recent years the demand for a formal qualification in visual electrophysiology has become more acute. Responding to this need ISCEV is working with John Grigg of Sydney University and UCL to develop and offer an on-line modular course in visual electrophysiology, with the aim of launching this in 2022. The delivery structure is based upon successful ophthalmology training modules already used. In addition, worldwide ISCEV satellite societies are supporting local education and training in visual electrophysiology. BriSCEV has just celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of MSc Scientific Trainees working in clinical visual electrophysiology units. The trainees will become professionally registered as Clinical Scientists in Ophthalmic and Vision Sciences in autumn '21. We hope they will enjoy long careers in clinical visual electrophysiology. Our colleagues in USA also are making progress in developing supported learning for technical clinical service delivery and I exhort the tireless efforts of Wanda Pfeiffer and Julie Racine.

The reshaped communication norm provides many new and exciting opportunities for global webinars and events involving ISCEV members, manufacturers and local societies creating wider possibilities to learn from each another. Although the pandemic means we will wait until 2022 for the in-person ISCEV symposium in Liverpool UK, the ISCEV 2021 course will go ahead on-line again in partnership with our colleagues at MEH UCL led by Tony Robson. This year adding a pre-clinical veterinary session directed by Suresh Viswanathan, it promises to be even better than last year. I hope you enjoy it!

Thank you to the ISCEV COURSE FACULTY 2014–2020

Carl Arndt, Michael Bach, Jelka Brecejl, Scott Brodie, Antonio Calcagni, Paul Constable, Bart Leroy, Gunter Niemeyer, Suresh Viswanthan, Rola Ba-Abbad, Mitch Brigell, Christoph Friedburg, Laura Frishman, Anne Fulton, Mercedes Gauthier, Ruth Hamilton, Chris Hogg, Graham Holder, Xiangrun Huang, Mary Johnson, Seong-Woo Kim, Mineo Kondo, Bo Lei, Byron Lam, Omar Mahroo, Oliver Marmoy, Magella Neveu, Emily O'Neill, Tae Kwan Park, Ido Perlman, Vittorio Porciatti, Anthony Robson, Linda Shi, Patrick Yu Wai Man, Anna Polosa, Matthias Seeliger, Maja Sustar, Naoyuki Tanimoto, Dorothy Thompson, Sinji Ueno.

Dorothy Thompson, ISCEV Director of Education

Report of the Director of Standards

First and foremost I would like to highlight that a draft update of the "ISCEV standard for full-field ERG" has been posted on the ISCEV website. The ISCEV standards are intended to promote consistency of methods for diagnosis and monitoring and to facilitate inter-laboratory comparisons, but must also respond to evolving clinical practices and technology to maintain relevance. The last version was published in 2015 and several changes and additions have been included in the recent draft, for the consideration of all ISCEV members. Your feedback will be essential and I would be grateful for your comments by email, not least to inform discussions before the next on-line "ISCEV standards" session. This is planned for 6 September and I have no doubt there will be vigorous and worthwhile debate. In addition, the "standards" session will include live or pre-recorded presentations on the "ISCEV



guidelines for measurement and calibration" and on "full-field stimulus testing" (FST), the latter used increasingly in clinical trials. The meeting will run twice on the same day, to allow participation in different time zones, including sessions at 07:00 UTC (08:00 London) and at 15:00 UTC (16:00 London).

There have been several other developments since the virtual "ISCEV standards" session last September, including two open access publications. The "ISCEV standard for clinical mfERG (2021 update)" and the "ISCEV extended protocol for VEP methods of estimation of visual acuity" were published in Documenta Ophthalmologica in February of this year, and special thanks to the committees led by Michael Hoffman and Ruth Hamilton respectively. The latter publication completes the first set of eight extended protocols that were proposed by the ISCEV Board of Directors, intended to encourage consistency and to develop methods suitable for standardization. Further refinement and distillation of methods will be guided by your experience and feedback is welcome at any time.

It is a pleasure to report that wider dissemination and readership of the ISCEV standards has been enabled, thanks largely to ISCEV Board member Shiying Li and former Board member Zheng Qin Yin. Since last July, four ISCEV publications have been translated into Chinese by the Chinese Visual Physiology Society of the Chinese Ophthalmology Society, and published in the Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology (readership 30,000). The translations include the ISCEV standards for full-field ERG, multifocal ERG and VEP and the ISCEV guide to electrodiagnostic procedures.

Anthony Robson, ISCEV Director of Standards

Editor-in-Chief, Documenta Ophthalmologica

Dear ISCEV members,

During the last year or so, the Editorial team has handled 202 manuscripts. Of these, 67 were accepted, 107 were rejected, 3 withdrawn and 25 are still under review. This year again, several papers were rejected because they did not address an issue that was compatible with the mission of our Journal, which is the promotion of visual electrophysiology. Also, 5 manuscripts were rejected for plagiarism. Furthermore, our editorial team identified a redundant publication (i.e., salami publications) which was reporting, in another journal, data previously published in ours. The manuscript was ultimately retracted. Ethical issues surrounding manuscript reviews continue to



be the nightmare of the Editorial team as it is our duty to make sure that the authors are reporting original, accurate, real, reproducible, and unpublished data so that their research will make a valuable contribution to the advancement of our field.

Of the 67 manuscripts that were published, 50% were research manuscripts, 39% clinical case reports and the remainder included: reviews, standards, letters to the Editor, extended protocols, etc. While standards and extended protocols are accepted without going through the review process, the remainder were accepted after a thorough review process (1 up to 5 reviews); a review effort that very few (if any) journals accept to make. It goes without saying that this would not have been made possible without the hard work and dedication of the Associate-Editors (Daphne McCulloch, Suresh Viswanathan, Mineo Kondo and Jan Kremers), our Managing Editor (Diana Epstein), our senior Editor at Springer (Patrizia Bianchi), as well as all those who volunteered their time to the review process.

Recently, our readership was informed that the impact factor of our Journal made a significant jump from 1.294 in 2019 to a record high of 2.379 in 2020. Our Journal now ranks 37 out of 62 journals in Ophthalmology. This is a great achievement given the unique niche that Documenta occupies. Members are encouraged to continue supporting our journal not only by reading it but also by submitting their work to it and, when appropriate, by citing the manuscripts that we have published as this will help to increase the visibility of both our Journal and our trade as well.

In closing, this report marks the end of my last term as Editor-in-Chief of Documenta Ophthalmologica, a function that I accepted from you with pride and, I hope, fulfilled beyond your expectations. It was a real pleasure for me to serve the ISCEV community in this capacity. I most sincerely thank you for your trust and the Associate-Editors and Editorial Board members (past and present) as well as all those of you who have volunteered time and effort to the review process. Without your continued support, our Journal would not be where it is today. I am proud to say that I leave a journal in excellent health to my successor. It is therefore with the sentiment of work accomplished that I will be stepping down at the end of this year to join the select group of IS-CEV Editors Emeriti.

Most sincerely and most respectfully submitted,

Pierre Lachapelle, Editor-In-Chief Documenta Ophthalmologica

Director of International Communications

Dear friends and colleagues:

Thank you for re-electing me as Director of International Communications! This makes it now a quarter of a century I've been serving ISCEV in some role or other (of course, there are others outranking me markedly). Also, it is my third and last term in a row in this capacity, rendering it pressing to find successors soon, to infuse new blood here (I'm over 70). I clearly have a number of limitations, e.g., refusing stubbornly to have any contact with a specific unsocial (IMHO) network, but others make up for this (thank you, Ruth and Lucia).



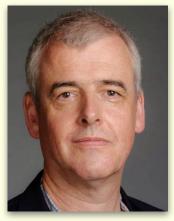
My duties are challenging due to a continuously changing computing environment. For instance, we recently discovered that occasionally emails were not delivered to some members, although they were successfully sent and tracked. They were in some intermediate spam trap, not accessible to end users, nearly impossible to solve. Better news: Our financial transactions are largely automated now, providing near immediate feedback and receipt. We hope that in future this can be transacted without PayPal; currently PayPal's our main conduit. Anyone not being able to use it (there are some countries where it is prohibited) please contact me, so far we have always found a solution. A huge majority of you successfully mastered the process, thank you! (And congratulations). When you have successfully entered your membership page, you can take the opportunity to also update your email, address, and what-have-you.

Looking forward to many more engaging interactions with you, specifically in the real worldTM,

Michael Bach, ISCEV Director of International Communications

Treasurer's Report

Dear ISCEV colleagues, this is my final report as treasurer since my second term will expire soon. Again, the spreadsheet summarizing ISCEV's finances is the central piece of information in the treasurer's report. It displays the financial data for 2020 and retrospectively for a period of 10 years (this time for 2010–2020). Modifications in the Wild Apricot setup, the exclusive site for the annual membership dues payments, have led in 2020 to a PayPal policy to keep currencies as they are, a change from the previous standard of an immediate conversion of USD amounts into EUR. Thus, it became necessary to report both USD and EUR credits to the PayPal account separately, as indicated in the spreadsheet under 'Membership dues via PP'. The contracts related to direct credit card payments and handling terminated in 2019 were running out in the middle of 2020, so this item became reduced and will not



appear anymore next year. 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 31 December 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 2020 was again balanced and despite the roughly 33,000 EUR spent for the 2020 virtual meeting within the margin of fluctuation over the past years. As an outlook, the new contract with Springer regarding DOOP that is effective since 2020 appears to rather improve and stabilize ISCEVs finances for a period of 5 years, which is particularly helpful in these uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding myself, it is planned that I will remain "on board" for a period of time (e.g. as a member-at-large), not only to permit a smooth transition to the subsequent treasurer, but particularly as a counsel in legal questions of the German law and regulations that govern ISCEV as a society, and of course regarding the finance-related legal framework. 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.

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Vice-President Americas

I am writing this annual report from the Americas with sincere hopes for the well-being of ISCEV members around the world, as another year passes with continuing circumstances that prevent face-to-face meetings. In September 2020, the Canadian host team did a heroic job in organizing ISCEV's 58th annual symposium (14–16 Sept.), as the society's first virtual meeting. The meeting went very well, due to efforts of the team leader, Pierre Lachapelle, and the committee Francois Tremblay, Michelle McKerral, Marc Hebert, Dave Saint Amour, Julie Racine, Mercedes Gauthier, Anna Polosa and Allison Dorfmann – supported by our Secretary-General, Karen Holopigian and President, Ruth Hamilton. The abstract book was ready before the meeting for the attendees, carefully compiled and edited by a well-known, ex-



perts: Committee Chair, Scott E. Brodie, joined by Mitchell Brigell, Mary Johnson, Jonathan Lyons, Anne Moskowitz, and Richard Smith. The creativity of the many participants in the ISCEV Olympics also deserves special acknowledgement.

ISCEV@ARVO was placed on hold again this year as the virtual San Francisco meeting of ARVO did not accommodate ancillary pre-meetings such as ours. Moving forward, society members are encouraged to respond to the call for ISCEV@ARVO speakers and attendees that they will receive early in 2022, for a meeting (we hope!) before the ARVO meeting in Denver Colorado in the first week of May. The next time that an annual ISCEV meeting is scheduled to occur in the Americas is in 2024, in Canada.

Very best wishes to members of ISCEV. I look forward to having a face-to-face meeting next year in Liverpool, and to seeing you online soon at the 2021 virtual membership meeting and standards session.

Sincerely,

Vice-President Asia & Australasia

During the last year, it has been difficult to have face-to-face scientific meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here I describe the ISCEV-related activities that were held in the area of Asia and Oceania.

From 31 October – 1 November 2020, hosted by Prof. Shiying Li, the "2020 National CME training course on visual electrophysiology" was held in Xi'an. On 4 November 2020, a virtual meeting of the Chinese translation version for "ISCEV Standard for full-field clinical electroretinography (ERG)" was hosted by Dr. Yibin Huang of Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology. On 25 November 2020, a virtual meeting of the Chinese translations for "ISCEV standard for clinical visual evoked poten-



tial (VEP)" was hosted by Dr. Yibin Huang of Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology. On 9 December 2020, a virtual meeting of the Chinese translations for "ISCEV guide to visual electrodiagnostic procedures" was hosted by Dr. Yibin Huang of Chinese Journal of Ophthalmology. On 23 December 2020, a virtual meeting of the Chinese translations for "ISCEV standard for clinical multifocal electroretinography (mfERG)" was hosted by Prof. Zheng Qin Yin of the Army Medical University and Prof. Xiaoyan DING of Sun Yat-Sen University.

The 68th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (JSCEV) was held in Kobe on 29–30 September 2020. This meeting was hosted by Prof. Makoto Nakamura of the Kobe University, Kobe, Japan. Special lectures were given by Professor Hiroaki Wake of Nagoya University.

The 16th Annual Meeting of Korean Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (KSCEV) was held on 26 September 2020. This meeting was held online due to the COVID-19. A special lecture was given by Professor Young Hoon Ohn of Soonchunhyang University, and the title was "Past, Present, and Future of Electrophysiology".

We thank the senior members of ISCEV for the informative presentations and lessons. We all look forward to the time when this 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

The major part of a VP's role is to support colleagues hosting ISCEV symposia in the European and North African time zone. This year I have observed how the past VP, Richard Smith, with the Liverpool team, led by Tony Fisher, Richard Hagan and Gillian Ruddock and symposium coordinator Colin Barber have negotiated their way through the uncertain and rapidly changing times of the pandemic. They made difficult and finely balanced decisions as they deferred ISCEV@Liverpool until 2022. Richard Smith guided these decisions diplomatically and with pragmatic steadfastness. I hope I can follow his example.

In support of the ISCEV symposium coming to the UK I was delighted that Prof. Sobha Sivaprasad Editor of Eye, the UK Royal College of Ophthalmologist Journal agreed to publish a special section about visual electrophysiology. This will appear in the journal Eye in September 2021 to correspond with the MEH UCL/ISCEV on-line course. This compendium of clinical reviews is part of ISCEV's ongoing journey to make visual electrophysiology more accessible to clinicians and patients alike, as highlighted in the companion commentary by ISCEV President Ruth Hamilton. I would like to thank all the contributing authors and external expert peer reviewers who worked so hard to meet tight deadlines.

Over the coming year I hope to find out more about the vibrant local societies who share this time zone and learn more about their work and understand how we can share ideas to strengthen our collaborations and networks. After the in-person ISCEV symposia ripple forwards we anticipate the next ISCEV in this time zone will be 2025. We are delighted already to have an expression of enthusiastic interest for hosting a meeting in Budapest, Hungary from Mirella Barboni, Eszther Miko-Barath, Balas Varsanyi and Zoltan Nagy. It's never too early to plan!

Please contact me with your ideas and concerns and let's explore how we can further visual electrophysiology. Thank you for electing me to this post, it is an honour to serve the ISCEV board in this capacity.

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 Dodt Adjudication Panel selects the scientist the committee feels has made the best presentation at the Annual Symposium of the International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV).

In 2020, the 25th annual Dodt award was presented to Megan Margetts from the United Kingdom (shown in the photograph on the right). Megan's winning presentation was entitled: 'Rod-driven electroretinogram responses in moderate Vitamin A deficiency are consistent with desensitisation due to an equivalent background'.



The Emiko Adachi Award & Lecture

Due to the limitations of the virtual meeting, there was no Emiko Adachi lecture in 2020, nor will there be an Adachi lecture in 2021. The next Adachi lecture, by Dr. Mitchell Brigell, is scheduled for presentation at the 2022 ISCEV Symposium in Liverpool.

The Dawson Memorial Lecture

The 2020 annual Dawson Memorial Lecture was presented by Professor Sylvain Chemtob from the Department of Ophthalmology, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Sainte Justine Research Center, Montreal, Canada. His very interesting talk was entitled: "Choroidopathy in Retinopathy of Prematurity: a concern for long-term outcome" This was the 10th annual Dawson Memorial Lecture.

The Dawson lecture has been presented annually at the ISEV Symposium. The lecture 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 Dawson-Trick-Litzkow (DTL) corneal elec-



Professor Sylvain Chemtob (on the right)

trode, widely used in electrophysiology. Professor Chemtob was introduced by Professor Pierre Lachapelle and Professor Chemtob presented his talk remotely. Professor Chemtob is shown with his award and with Professor Lachapelle in front of a photograph of Dr. Dawson.

The Marmor Award

The Marmor award is generously endowed by Professor Michael Marmor. The award has the following aims: (1) improve the practicality of electrophysiological procedures: (e.g. speed, reliability, ease, cost); and (2) to 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.

In 2020, there was no winner of the Marmor Award for an initial innovative project. There was one 2020 winner of the Marmor Award for a follow-up project (given two years after the initial presentation). This award went to the project entitled: 'Portable device for VEP examination: continued development' and the winners were M Kuba, J Kremláček, F Vít, Z Kubová, J Langrová, J Szanyi from the Czech Republic.

Honorary Membership: Michael Marmor

Honorary membership is bestowed upon those members who, in the opinion of the Board of Officers, have acquired particular distinction in the electrophysiology of vision or allied fields, or who have performed particularly meritorious work for the Society. Professor Marmor was nominated for honorary membership, which was fully endorsed by the ISCEV Board of Officers. At the 2020 membership meeting, prior to the membership voting on the honorary membership status of Professor Marmor, Richard Smith spoke on his behalf. Mr. Smith noted highlights of Professor Marmor's illustrious career as a physician, his contributions to the



ISCEV standards, clinical cases sessions, his endowment of the Marmor award and his winning of the Adachi award. The membership then voted and approved Professor Marmor's honorary status. Professor Marmor is shown here happily accepting the award.

Karen Holopigian

ISCEV Symposium 2021: Postponed

Dear members of the ISCEV family,

As already explained by our President and Secretary General above, the Liverpool Symposium Committee, after *long* deliberation, agreed that due to unresolved COVID-19 issues, we will skip our face-to-face meeting in 2021 and 2022 would be preferred for the Liverpool Symposium; this decision was not made lightly. We will all continue to look forward to 2022 and the hope that a face-to-face Symposium will be feasible for next year.

But there will be short virtual meeting in September, serving two important functions: firstly to hold the Membership meeting where members can question the Board on their activities over the past year (2021-09-07) and secondly, to hold a Standards session (twice to serve all time zones) on 2021-09-06. See on-line events.

Recollections of a Virtual Symposium 2020

Dear members of the ISCEV family,

We had planned an exciting meeting for the 2020 ISCEV Symposium, and we were eager to show you our knowhow, once more. Unfortunately, COVID-19 changed our plans. We basically had to throw away more than two years of hard work and start afresh with a new challenge: to organize the first ISCEV Virtual Symposium. Thankfully, our effort paid off and I am pleased to report that the 2020 ISCEV Symposium was a success with more than 183 registered participants (roughly 50% of which were ISCEV members) and 13 registrants representing our sponsors. The scientific portion of the meeting included 5 oral sessions (total: 33 papers), 1 sponsor session with 4 sponsors, 7 poster sessions (total: 36 posters), 1 clinical case session where 15 cases were discussed, and a Dawson Lecture given by Dr. Sylvain Chemtob. Added to the science, we also had a lively opening (with our past-President who had mistakenly scuba dived to les Iles-de-la-Madeleine), closing ceremonies (with the encore performance of Colin Barber as the ultimate and unbiased judge of the Olympic competition) and a live membership meeting. Organising the virtual Olympics was the ultimate challenge that the organizing team had to meet. Events included a treasure hunt, funny picture competition, sing along/choreography and past ISCEV gifts identification. All the events were planned so that identification of the winner would be a no-brainer. Unfortunately, as it is the rule at ISCEV, the final judging is seldom straightforward. Several teams were penalized for unexpected reasons such as: unlicensed use of actors, lack of seafaring knowledge, use of a funny picture that illustrated a tragic event, etc. Of note, new award categories were introduced for the first time this year, namely: Best male/female actors in a static or dynamic role and the Trump Award for best fakery. After a lengthy deliberation, Europe was declared the winner of the first ISCEV virtual Olympics and the virtual plaque was given to its captain, Maja Šuštar. Our congratulations also go to the competing teams and their captains, namely: Kaoru Fujinami (Asia); Oliver Marmoy (UK) and Tom Wright (USA-Canada) for the hard work, dedication and complicity they showed.

Of course, all of this would not have been made 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 as well as the skillful team of Kenes Group who managed the Symposium. For me, ISCEV 2020 represented the last Symposium that I was involved with as Chair of the Organizing Committee. I have decided to pass the baton on to the more junior members of our team who have enthusiastically accepted the relay. The organizing committee of the next America ISCEV Symposium will therefore be under the highly capable guidance of Allison Dorfman and Anna Polosa.

In closing, to all of you who have accepted our invitation to participate in the 1st ISCEV virtual Symposium, our heartfelt thanks.

Pierre Lachapelle, on behalf of the 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, and Mitch Brigell as ISCEV Symposium Coordinator.

ISCEV Symposium 2024 in Canada

The Eastern Canada ISCEV team is honored to welcome you to the stunning Fairmont Le Château Montebello in historical Montebello, Quebec in the Outaouais region for the 61st ISCEV Symposium. We look forward to making up for lost time and to finally being able to greet you face-to-face once again in mid-September 2024!

youtube.com/watch?v=lrGuk6qbRxo.

We have opted for a fall meeting, as the changing of the leaves is absolutely beautiful and the weather is still extremely pleasant. Given that



the summer rush will be behind us, we will be able to benefit from reduced fees for accommodation, social activities and the like. The resort is located along the Ottawa river and has a private marina for our group with boating activities, indoor and outdoor pools, a golf course and beautiful terraces and views.

The Fairmont Le Château Montebello < fairmont.com/montebello > is located roughly an hour and 15 minutes from Montreal and 45 minutes from Ottawa, both of which have international airports. The latter will significantly facilitate travel arrangements irrespective of where you will be joining us from! The Fairmont Le Château Montebello is known for their outstanding gastronomy and we have negotiated an extremely competitive rate per day including both accommodations and all 3 meals which will total roughly U\$350.00 for a standard room and U\$400.00 per day for a deluxe room and will include a vast variety of local specialties and seasonally inspired menus.

The registration fees should be in the range of that paid for recent ISCEV meetings (roughly U\$700.00 for full ISCEV members and U\$550.00 for YSCEV). Please note that we will not make use of a meeting organizer and that registration fees will be put directly towards activities that attendees will benefit from (social events, entertainment, special meals + drinks, cocktails, welcome and farewell receptions, bus trips, gifts, and the like). Each and every one of your meals will be taken care of during the symposium (including thematic evenings and soirées along the river). Our goal is to remain onsite for the symposium as well as both the theory and practical aspects of the ISCEV courses as well.

We look forward to reuniting with you all on Canadian soil at long last in 2024!

The ISCEV 2024 Canadian team: Allison L. Dorfman, Anna Polosa, Pierre Lachapelle, Mercedes Gauthier, Michelle McKerral, Julie Racine, Jacqueline Orquin, Marie Sylvie Roy, Marc Hébert, Dave St-Amour and François Tremblay.

Minutes of the 2020 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 MembMins2020.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 2021-09-07.

2021 Membership meeting agenda

- 1. Opening & welcome by the President
- 2. Minutes of 2020 Membership Meeting for approval
- 3. 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
- 4. Exoneration of the Board
- 5. Treasurer
 - Report, exoneration
- 6. Highlights from the ISCEV Board of Directors Meeting
- 7. ISCEV Symposium Working Committee Summary
- 8. Elections

Treasurer: Professor Mathias Seeliger has completed two terms. One nomination, Professor Jan Kremers, has been received.

Documenta Ophthalmologica, Editor in Chief: Dr. Pierre Lachapelle has completed two terms. One nomination, Dr. Daphne McCulloch, has been received.

Director of Education: At the 2020 ISCEV Virtual meeting, Professor Dorothy Thompson (the Director of Education) was elected as Vice-President of Europe/Africa with the plan that she and Suresh Viswanathan would work together on the Director of Education position. One nomination, Suresh Viswanathan, has been received for this position.

Member-at-large (Possible geographical restriction): Dr. Mary Johnson has completed two terms.

Eight nominations were received: Prof. Maja Šuštar, Prof. Seong-Woo Kim, Dr. Allison Dorfman, Prof. AyatAllah Farouk Hussein, Prof. Henry Chan, Prof. Carl Arndt, Prof. John Grigg, Dr. Jason McAnany.

Auditors: Drs. Allison Dorfman and Sven Heinrich have both served one term.

- 9. Future ISCEV Symposia
 - 2022, Liverpool, UK presentation by Professor Tony Fisher & BriSCEV
 - 2023, Kyoto, Japan presentation by Professor Masayuki Horiguchi
 - 2024, Montebello, Quebec, Canada presentation by Dr Allison Dorfman & team
- 10. Other business