

General Business Meeting of ISN 2003

**Hotel Claude Bernard, rue des Ecoles, Paris, France
Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 6:00-6:45 p.m.**

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report 2002
3. Secretary's Report 2002
4. Report on the activities of ISN Committees
5. Matters arising from the First Council Meeting
6. Results of elections of new Secretary and Councilors
7. Status after the cancellation of the ISN/APSN Meeting in Hong Kong 2003
8. Status of the ISN/ESN joint Meeting, Innsbruck 2005
9. Presentation of proposals for the ISN/ASN joint Meeting in 2007
Cancun, Mexico
Montreal, Canada
10. Membership dues
11. Any other business

Ad 1 Opening of the Meeting

The President welcomed the approximately 31 ISN members who attended the meeting, and concluded that the quorum of at least 1% of the membership needed for decisions to be made was satisfied.

Ad 2 Treasurer's Report 2002

INTRODUCTION

The Treasurer's Report for 2001 as well as projections of ISN income and expenditures for 2002 and 2003 were presented to the Council at the ISN meeting in West Palm Beach in June 2002. Council found the report to be in order and it was approved by the membership.

The present report covers the calendar year 2002 together with projected budgets for 2003 and 2004.

Financial records for 2002 held in the Treasurer's Office in Montreal were audited by Deloitte and Touche (Montreal) who reported their findings to Deloitte and Touche,

Birmingham, UK, and Society accountants. All relevant records were sent to the UK and the annual financial statements were received in Montreal July 2nd, 2003.

INCOME FOR 2002

Total income for 2002 was \$995 484, some \$287 551 higher than in 2001. This increase was due mainly to increased revenues from the journal.

EXPENDITURES FOR 2002

Expenses for 2002, at \$423 624 were substantially less than in 2001 (\$872 303) which were due mainly to the 2001 costs incurred in relation to the meeting in Buenos Aires. Expenditures by the Committee for Aid in Education in Neurochemistry (CAEN) committee increased in 2002 to \$79 905 consistent with the broader mandate of this committee as approved by Council. Administrative costs in 2002 were slightly higher (\$1817) than in 2001.

INVESTMENTS IN 2002

Investment income fell 26% to \$73 328 in 2002 from \$102 046 in 2001. This was due to a somewhat poorer performance of stocks and GICs. ISN did relatively well to hold losses to this amount considering the international financial climate in 2002.

TOTAL ASSETS AT THE END OF 2002

Total assets of ISN in 2002 are \$2 293 429, an increase of \$97 893 from 2001 due mainly to increased journal royalties.

PROJECTED INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 2003 AND 2004

The income of the Society is expected to be maintained at \$995 484 in 2002, to \$1 045 258 in 2003 and \$1 107 973 in 2004. These increases are due in major part to increases in journal royalties from Blackwell Science.

Expenditures are expected to be approximately \$600 000 in 2003. These expenses are in line with those of the previous biennial meeting years despite the expenses incurred in the cancellation of the Hong Kong biennial meeting since finances budgeted for Hong Kong will go entirely to support of Hong Kong Satellite meetings, the Advanced School to be held in Avignon and support of APSN's meeting in Hong Kong in February 2004, assuming that these are approved later in the meeting. It is projected that income from investments will again be modest in 2002/2003 due to the uncertain state of financial markets.

2003 Meeting Expenditures (estimated):

Advance to LOC 2002:	\$40.000,00
Advance to LOC 2003:	\$39.598,00
Paris General Business Meeting:	\$75.000,00
Avignon Advanced Neurochemistry School:	\$60.000,00
Satellite Meetings:	\$25.000,00
Registration Refunds:	\$63.257,00
Air Ticket Refunds:	\$20.000,00
	<hr/>
<i>Subtotal:</i>	\$322.855,00
<i>Original amount budgeted:</i>	\$500.000,00
<i>Balance</i>	\$177.145,00

2004 Meeting Expenditures (estimated):

Avignon Special Meeting 2004:	\$150.000,00
<i>Total:</i>	\$150.000,00

Total assets of ISN in 2003/2004 are expected to be unchanged at \$2 290 000.

PROPOSAL

The Treasurer proposes that the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche in Birmingham, UK be re-appointed as the official Society ("company") auditor for 2003.

This was unanimously accepted by Council.

There was a short discussion concerning the fact that there seems to be an increase of the assets of the Society. Due to the charity status this needs to be avoided and Council recommended that measures be taken to balance this by an increase in the expenditure. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Appendix A

Deloitte and Touche report on the accounts of 2002 as presented:

The \$USD accounts as presented on the following pages are only a summary of information contained in the pound sterling accounts. They do not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the results and state of affairs of the company. For further information, the full annual accounts in pounds sterling, the Trustee's Report and the Auditor's Report should be consulted.

The receipt of the \$ accounts does not remove the right of members under section 239 of the Companies Act 1985, to receive a copy of the company's full sterling accounts,

Trustee's Report and Auditor's Report on those accounts. Any person who wishes to receive a full set of these UK statutory accounts should apply to the Company Secretary in the United Kingdom.

Contact details are as follows:

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**UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
IN US DOLLARS
Year ended 31 December 2002**

INCOMING RESOURCES	2002 \$	2001 \$
Activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects		
Membership dues received	49,689	47,343
Journal publications	872,467	536,347
International meetings:		
Buenos Aires meeting	-	22,197
Activities for generating funds		
Investment income	73,328	102,046
Total incoming resources	995,484	707,933
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects		
Cost of membership dues collection	1,789	3,010
Editorial office and Website expenses	461	104,096
Publication Committee	13,868	13,122
Abstracts (ASN, ESN & APSN)	1,555	-
Historian's expenses	400	-
Committee for Aid in Neurochemistry		
Conference/seed grants	79,505	48,862
Small conference and education committee	72,647	47,000
Total carried forward	170,225	216,090

	2002		2001
\$	\$	\$	\$
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects			
Total brought forward	170,225		216,090
International Meetings			
Hong Kong 2003	46,317		4,206
Innsbruck 2005	5,000		-
Palm Beach 2002	7,604		-
Buenos Aires 2001	1,200		-
Program committee	-		5,915
Plenary lecturers	-		12,201
Young Investigator Awards	-		7,550
Symposia	(2,533)		93,540
Technology	-		3,198
Workshops	-		10,110
Colloquia	(1,500)		58,960
Travel awards	(3,037)		147,835
Advanced school of neurochemistry	-		48,031
Conference committee	7,000		-
Satellite meetings	(335)		25,132
General funding	2,247		27,935
Unused funds	(18,918)		-
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	43,045		444,613
Costs of generating funds			
Investment management fees	7,515		6,944
Management administration			
President's expenses	-		1,121
Treasurer's expenses	11,942		24,423
Secretary's expenses	49,441		48,506
ISN Newsletters and directory	74,011		59,629
Council travel	40,213		56,408
Bank charges	2,780		1,782
Audit fees	3,400		3,200
Accountancy fees	10,533		9,188
Professional fees	4,598		52
Sundry	5,669		347
New equipment purchases	252		-
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	202,839		204,656
Total resources expended	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
	423,624		872,303
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR YEAR	571,860		(164,370)
Other recognised gains and losses:			
Investment gains	39		6,130
Movement on currency exchange	25,994		(6,533)
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	26,033		(403)
Resources retained/(used) in year	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
	597,893		(164,773)

	2002	2001	2002 \$	2001 \$
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
Investments at market value			1,460,845	1,091,393
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors - prepayments and accrued income			144,569	896,004
Bank balances and cash in hand:				
United Kingdom -				
National Westminster Bank Plc	STG 419	STG 355	675	516
First Direct	STG 11384	STG 13,871	18,328	20,188
United States of America				
Bank of America			128,773	126,669
Wells Fargo Bank			-	2,977
Other banks			2	2
Reed, Conner & Birdwell			42,778	355,717
Canada				
Royal Bank	CANS\$ 18,297	-	11,582	-
Royal Bank			1,394,604	78,859
Bank of Montreal			20,658	-
Other countries				
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AUS\$ 76,187	AUS\$ 94,100	42,901	48,169
University of Newcastle	AUS\$ 76,248	AUS\$ 94,441	42,935	48,343
Commerzbank	DM 1,083	DM 589	1,137	268
Denmark	DKK 8,593	DKK (96,221)	1,214	(11,523)
			<u>3,311,001</u>	<u>2,657,582</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			<u>(1,017,572)</u>	<u>(962,046)</u>
Net assets			<u><u>2,293,429</u></u>	<u><u>1,695,536</u></u>
ACCUMULATED UNRESTRICTED FUND				
Total funds at 1 January 2002			1,695,536	1,860,309
Resources retained/(used) in year			597,893	(164,773)
Total funds at 31 December 2002			<u><u>2,293,429</u></u>	<u><u>1,695,536</u></u>

Ad 6 Election results

This was dealt with under item 1a.

Ad 7 Committee reports

a. Activities of the CAEN Committee 2002-2003

The Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry has had an active year. To date, \$33,900 of CAEN funds has been dispersed to scientists from fourteen countries (Argentina, India, Brazil, Uruguay, Russia, Hungary, Canada, Croatia, Congo, Nigeria, Morocco, and Bulgaria). An additional \$13,000 of support is pending for applicants from four additional countries (Mexico, Puerto Rico, Malaysia, Armenia). This support has been for small research grants for the applicant's laboratory (2), attendance at scientific meetings (6), support of neurochemistry schools, workshops and meetings (3), and travel to carry out research in another laboratory (3). Included in this total was an award of \$1,500 to the Thudicum library in Canada administered via Dr. Theodore Sourkes, and an award of \$8,000 to support the SONA meeting in Nigeria administered via Dr. Michael Egwu [an additional \$3,500 was awarded to three individuals from the Congo (currently in Norway) and Morocco to attend SONA].

In addition, CAEN oversaw the awarding of \$28,000 in one-time small research grants to 16 Argentinean neurochemists; the selection committee was made up of a small group of non-competing Argentinean scientists (Podesta, Paladini, Caputto, Pasquini) chaired by Dr. Eduardo Soto.

Finally, travel grants were awarded to Argentinean scientists to attend the ISN meeting in Hong Kong, of which \$12,000 came from the President's fund and \$1,500 from the CAEN budget. The selections were made by a small group of Argentinean scientists (Profs. Paladini, Podesta, Maccioni) chaired by Drs. Giannina Pasquini and Eduardo Soto, none of whom applied for these funds. Unfortunately, these funds were not used in view of the cancellation of this meeting.

It was decided to consider the funding for CAEN at the second Council Meeting.

Country	Number Or People	Amount	Recipient/Purpose	Date
Argentina	1	\$3,000	Pasquini; research	Oct. 2002
Argentina Research Grants; Special ISN One Time Fund	16	(\$28,000 total)	Bouzat, Castano, Antonelli, deLoresArnaiz, Plazas, Guisto, Guido, De Fraga, Cobe, Nores, Daniotti, Viola, Rosenstei Vatta, Cancela, Perillo	Nov. 2002
India meeting	1	\$800	Vivekanandhan;	Nov. 2002
Brazil	1	\$2,500	Guatimosim; research	Sept. 2002

<i>Uruguay</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>Dajas; School</i>	<i>Nov. 2002</i>
<i>Canada Library</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>	<i>Sourkes; Thudicum</i>	<i>Dec. 2002</i>
<i>Russia</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$600</i>	<i>Kerkesho/Konenevsky Meeting</i>	<i>Mar.2003</i>
<i>Hungary</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>	<i>Buki, research visit</i>	<i>Apr.2003</i>
<i>Argentina Travel Rubinstein (\$12,000 from Antonelli, President)</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>(\$13,500)</i>	<i>Caputto, Barrantes, Setton, Ferrari, Hallek, Salis, Paez</i>	<i>Apr. 2003</i>
<i>*These funds were not used due to cancellation of the ISN meeting in Hong Kong.</i>				
<i>Hungary/Croatia</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Apr. 2003</i>
<i>Uganda lab.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>	<i>Ihunwo; Visit to Leipzig</i>	<i>Mar. 2003</i>
<i>Congo</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>Mwanza; SONA</i>	<i>Apr. 2003</i>
<i>Congo</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>Kashala; SONA</i>	<i>Apr. 2003</i>
<i>Moracco</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>	<i>Bouyata; SONA</i>	<i>Apr. 2003</i>
<i>Nigeria</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>Egwu; SONA</i>	<i>Apr. 2003</i>
<i>Bulgaria lab.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>	<i>Kalfin; visit to Italian</i>	<i>June 2003</i>
<i>Mexico</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Pending; \$5,000</i>	<i>Herandez; workshop</i>	<i>June 2003</i>
<i>Malaysia lab.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Kumar; visit to Polish</i>	<i>June 2003</i>
<i>Armenia</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Guevorkian; research</i>	<i>---</i>
<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Pending; \$5,000?</i>	<i>Espinosa; school</i>	<i>---</i>

There was a short debate about the need for more vigorous advertisement of the CAEN activities. It was decided to improve the advertisement but to keep it at a moderate level to avoid a too massive number of applications.

b. Conference Committee

Since the last Council meeting in Palm Beach in June 2002 two deadlines for application for ISN support for conferences have been resolved.

For the April 30 and the October 31, 2002 deadlines, seven applications were examined in each occasion and all of them were considered worth supporting to some extent. The name of the successful applicants and the amount granted are summarised in the attached tables.

For the April 30, 2003 deadline, 5 applications were received and are presently under examination.

During this period, the ISN-CC also examined submissions (deadline January 31, 2003) for the Young Scientist Lectureship Awards that had been programmed for the ISN/APSN meeting in Hong Kong. Thirteen proposals were received and the ISN-CC had a difficult task selecting only two among several outstanding young scientists. After cancellation of the Hong Kong meeting, the selected scientists, Farrukh A. Chaudry and Gonzalo E. Torres, will be given the opportunity to receive the award and present their work in another ISN meeting.

The meeting reports of the conferences supported in the October 31, 2001 session (see *Neurochemistry News*, June 2002, p. 32) and three of the April 30, 2002 session (J. Albrecht, V. Calabrese, P. Taylor) have appeared in the *Neurochemistry News* of December 2002 and one more has been received (S. Dunlop).

Finally, the guidelines for application for financial support to the ISN-CC and the application form have been placed on the web page.

ISN Support for Conferences

RESULTS APRIL 30, 2002 DEADLINE

Organizer name	Affiliation	Conference name and location	Date	Funds \$US
Jan Albrecht	Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland	Glutamine, glutamate and GABA in the CNS, Wierzba , Poland	August 24-28, 2002	5,000
Ricardo Borges	Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain	12 th International Symposium on Chromaffin Cell Biology, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain	September 20-25, 2003	4,500
Vittorio Calabrese	University of Catania, Italy.	2 nd International Conference on Heme Oxygenase (HO/CO) and Cellular Stress Response, Catania, Italy	June 6-9, 2002	3,100
Michael A. Cousin	University of Edinburgh, UK	Molecular Mechanisms of Exocytosis and Endocytosis, Edinburgh, UK	March 23– 25, 2003	6,200
Sarah Dunlop	The University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia	3 rd Asia Pacific Symposium on Neural Regeneration, Perth, Australia	December 3– 5, 2002	6,500
Segismund Huck	University of Vienna, Austria	Synaptogenesis, Vienna, Austria	July 6-8, 2003	5,800
Palmer Taylor	California Univ. La Jolla, CA USA	mposium “Checks and Balances in Cholinergic Gene Expression” within the 33th Annual Meeting of the ASN, Palm Beach, Florida, USA	June 22 - 26, 2002	6,120

October 30, 2002 deadline

Organizer name	Affiliation	Conference name and location	Date	Funds \$US
Joaquin Ariño	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain	ISN Symposium “Phosphatases in Neurobiology”, within the Conference on Protein Phosphatases, Barcelona, Spain	June 29-July 3, 2003	6,650
Andras Buki	Pecs University, Hungary	2 nd Pannonian Symposium on CNS Injury, Pecs, Hungary	May 8-10, 2003	2,500
Glyn Dawson	University of Chicago, USA	9 th International Congress on Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (Batten Disease), Chicago, Ill. USA	April 10-13, 2003	5,000
Katarzyna A. Nałęcz	Nencki Inst. Exp. Biol., Warsaw, Poland	ISN Symposium “Intercellular Communication in the Brain in Health and Disease” within the ESN Conference on Advances in Molecular Mechanisms of Neurological Disorders, Warsaw, Poland	June 1-4, 2003	7,000
Klaus G. Reymann	Leibniz Inst. Neurobiol. Magdeburg, Germany	3 rd International Symposium Neuroprotection and Neurorepair, Magdeburg, Germany	May 7-11, 2003	7,500
Alois Saria	University of Innsbruck, Austria	5 th Neurochemistry Winter Conference 2003, Sölden (Ötztal), Tirol, Austria	April 5-10, 2003	5,500
Kim B. Seroogy	University of Kentucky, USA	NEUROPEPTIDES 2003, Montauk, New York, USA	June 8-12, 2003	2,400

c. Travel Grants

Travel award Committee

Applications for travel awards to attend the ISN/APSIN 2003 Joint Meeting in Hong Kong were sent by e-mail to the chairperson of the committee (Vera Adam-Vizi).

Application forms were available on the ISN Portal.

The application forms together with the publication lists and abstracts to be submitted were evaluated by the committee and the selection was based on criteria used earlier. Priority was given to those under the age of 38 years, in the first 4 year of their postdoctoral career and to those who had not received previous support from ISN and who did not hold permanent position. Abstracts were evaluated in relation to the program of the meeting.

203 applications were evaluated and this number was almost the same as that for the previous ISN meeting in 2001 (206).

The original deadline for submitting the applications was January 31, 2003, which was extended until February 28. Since applicants had to be notified before the deadline for abstract submission (March 15), first the committee members seemed to have only five days for the evaluation. Later the abstract submission deadline was also extended until the end of March so the committee had another week for the evaluation. 11 members of the committee sent their scores.

It would be useful in the future if the deadline for application for travel awards could be at least three weeks earlier than the deadline for abstract submission to the meeting. This would give sufficient time for the committee to evaluate the applications and to notify the applicants about the decision in time.

100 applicants (49.2%) received supports from the total budget of 150.000 USD, with a balanced geographical distribution (American Continent 27; Europe 21; Australia, New Zealand 9; Africa 4; Asia, Pacific Region 39).

Standard amounts (in USD) were given to applicants from different geographical regions based on the random sampling of the costs indicated in the applications (American Continent, Europe 1600; Australia, New Zealand, India 1100; Japan 900; all the other 700 USD). In addition, the registration fees of successful applicants were also covered from the total budget. After the notification all the successful applicants referred back, thanked and accepted the awards.

Thanks are expressed to the members of the Travel Award Committee who worked very conscientiously, rapidly and reliably during the evaluation process.

It is very unfortunate that due to the unavoidable cancellation of the meeting in Hong Kong all our efforts were eventually in vain.

d. Nomination Committee

Nomination Procedures for the 2003 ISN elections for Secretary and five council members were organized according to the previous ISN election. Prospective officers were required to submit signatures from at least 16 proposing members, not more than one third of which could be from the same country. All candidates were found to be qualified to be on the ballot.

Two nominations for ISN Secretary and ten nominations for Council Members were received with the required number of signatures and country distribution and they were

included on the ballot. Nominees were requested to complete a questionnaire (used in the previous elections) on personal and professional activities relevant to the elections. This information and the ballot for election were sent to the Secretary for distribution.

e. Standing rules Committee

Report on the activities of the Committee between June 2002 and June 2003

The standing rules document has been updated by BH and new copies were given to the new Secretary in order to be distributed to the chairpersons of the committees to be established at Council Meeting II.

The main duty of the Chairperson of the Standing Rules Committee is the update of the Standing Rules. These rules guide the operations of ISN within the legal framework that is delineated by the constitution of ISN, the Articles of Association. The last update of the Standing Rules was prepared for the ISN Council Meeting that took place in Palm Beach / Florida in June 2002. Presently a new update has been initiated by asking the elected and appointed ISN Officers and the Chairpersons of ISN Committees for detailed suggestions for changes especially in the areas of their special ISN commitment. The updated version of the Standing Rules will be presented to my successor as Chairperson of the Standing Rules Committee during the Council and Business Meeting days in Paris in early August this year.

I have accepted a second duty that is correlated to that of the Standing Rules Committee. Following a request of the ISN Secretary, Arne Schousboe, we created an Access database for all members of ISN, ASN and ESN, the World Neurochemistry Membership Database (WNMD). The construction of this database is based on experience we gained with setting up a similar database during my six years of service as an ISN Officer. The database contains the following address information on members of ISN, ASN and ESN: Membership number (i.e. account number of ISN members); name; affiliation; postal, e-mail and website addresses; telephone and telefax numbers; membership category; society or societies of membership(s); date of most recent update of a member's entry; 5 keywords characterizing the research interests. The WNMD is thought to serve six purposes:

- 1) To allow searching for addresses of individual neurochemists on the membership search facility on the World's Neurochemistry Portal (www.neurochem.org).
- 2) In the cases of memberships in more than one of the three societies, to allow mutual benefit of the societies from update information arriving through the channel of one of the societies. Upon request or at more or less regular intervals the current offices of the three societies are provided with a most actual list just on their own membership. Such a list is extracted from the then current WNMD.
- 3) To allow sending out postal mails (currently the Neurochemistry News; First and second circulars of the Biennial Meeting) to all neurochemists whose names and addresses are registered in the database.
- 4) To allow sending out postal mails to all members of one of the three contributing societies (most recent example: ISN ballot papers).
- 5) To allow sending out e-mail messages to all neurochemists whose names are deposited in the WNMD. This was done for the first time in sending out the messages of the ISN Officers concerning the cancellation of the Hong Kong Meeting.
- 6) To allow sending out e-mail messages to the members of just one of the three societies (e.g., in a ballot on a proposed change in ISN's Articles of Association).

The database was generated in three steps. i) Transformation into a standardized format of the most recent versions of the ISN and ASN Membership lists obtained from the ISN Treasurer, Roger Butterworth, and the ASN Secretary, David Shine, respectively. This procedure included the updating of national zip codes. ii) Fusion of these two lists and elimination of the redundant entries. Those entries on the same person were cancelled that were most likely to be outdated. In the many cases of doubt other databases such as Medline were consulted. iii) The individual country's membership lists in word format that had been received from the ESN Secretary, Vera Adam-Vizi, were entered manually. The resulting ESN database was then fused with the combined ISN/ASN database. Again redundancies were eliminated. In addition, the addresses of the numerous neurochemists whose copies of the December 2002 issue of the Neurochemistry News were returned to the Secretary's office due to invalid addresses were updated by consulting Medline and other databases. Most addresses could be updated this way. The resulting database was called the WNMD. The database was forwarded to the ISN Secretary. It was also sent to David Shine for instalment on the Membership search facility in the World's Neurochemistry Portal. In addition, membership lists of the three neurochemical societies were extracted from WNMD. These were sent to the ISN Treasurer, Roger Butterworth, to the ASN Secretary, David Shine, and to the three ESN Officers Ferdinand Hucho, Vera Adam-Vizi and Gianfrancesco Goracci. The process of continuous updating the membership files in several offices has turned out to cause major organizational and time-consuming problems. It is suggested to discuss the whole complex in ISN Council. I should like to propose the following changes in the maintenance of the WNMD:

1) Following a suggestion by the ISN Treasurer, Roger Butterworth, the duty of maintaining the ISN membership database should be dissociated from the Treasurer's duties.

2) If the continuous updating of the WNMD is to be effective, the original address information from members of all three societies is to be sent directly to the same place for immediate inclusion in the WNMD.

3) Following a suggestion of David Shine, the webmaster of the World's Neurochemistry Portal, we have begun to ask by e-mail those persons, whose address information arrives at my office, for 5 keywords characterizing their research interests. It would be good if the Treasurers of the three societies would ask their members to provide such keywords. In the cases of ASN and ISN this could be done in conjunction with the membership fee reminders at the end of the year.

4) Following up on telephone conversations with the Secretaries of ASN and ISN, we have begun to include also the homepage addresses in the WNMD. For retrieving the homepage addresses from the neurochemists the procedure could be followed that is delineated under item 3.

5) The scientists whose entries in the WNMD were updated could be notified on the update. Alternatively, the offices of the societies that provided the new address information could be informed that the update was carried out. In a variant of this, monthly name lists of updated addresses could be sent to the societies' secretaries.

6) Sending out from my office mass e-mails to neurochemists concerning the Hong Kong Meeting and SARS revealed that approximately 17 % of all e-mail addresses in the WNMD were incorrect. We were able to amend the situation by retrieving many e-mail addresses from Medline or other databases. It is suggested to emphasize in the address campaign accompanying the membership fee reminders that members would carefully check the e-mail addresses contained in the WNMD.

7) If ISN wishes so, such service could be provided by my office till the time of my retirement in 2007.

f. Membership Committee

The membership has increased by approximately 120 during the period 2001-2002. To further increase the membership RB had made an effort to increase the membership by offering membership to individuals who had received fellowships for the Hong Kong Meeting. A large number of these individuals had accepted to become members and letters of membership confirmation had been sent out of concerted effort of the Treasurer's and the Secretary's offices.

The issue of how to maintain an accurate membership directory was brought up by BH. The President initiated a discussion as to whether or not an ISN Business office should be established. One of the responsibilities of this office would be to maintain the membership data bases. Such an office could also play a number of roles, including a role in relation to selection and organization of future meeting venues etc. It was unanimously decided by Council to proceed with this initiative. A committee was formed (members: the Officers together with David Shine) the task of which is to present a plan for such an office for Council at the next Council Meeting to be held in Japan 2004.

g. Internet Committee

The major emphasis of the committee remains the development and maintenance of Sin's web site and membership email notification system. The internet provider for the web site, Interland, has been reliable in the past year. The committee assisted the Local Host and Program Chairs of the biennial meeting by providing web site support including an online abstract submission system, meeting announcements and information, and links to online registration and reservation services. The committee worked with the Publication Committee and the editors of the Journal of Neurochemistry in posting material submitted to the "Matters Arising" section of the journal. Working with the Society's Historian, a catalogue of the archival material was posted so that the membership can determine what historical material is available. A searchable database of the World Neurochemistry Membership Database was recently launched with the aid of Dr. Bernd Hamprecht. General maintenance of the web site included regular updating of the scientific meeting and positions available lists.

Several emails were broadcast to the membership in the past year.

The committee welcomes suggestions to improve ISN's presence on the internet.

It was suggested by the President that the Chairperson of the Internet Committee obtains a status as Officer elected by the Council due to the important role of the Internet Committee.

David Shine agreed to continue in this capacity and Council unanimously accepted this new status for a period of two years, until the next election of Councillors and Treasurer.

h. Company Secretary

1. My routine duties have been payment of Company fees through our accountant at Deloitte & Touche and to ensure the preparation and forwarding of the Auditors' Reports to our Treasurer.
2. Liasing between our accountant and Treasurer in payment of bills.
3. Liasing between ISN Officers and our solicitors on amendments to the Constitution and to the Guidelines.
4. I have been Company Secretary since 1995 and am handing over to John Clark soon – it has been a really pleasant task.

The President cordially thanked Herman Bachelard for his excellent service to the Society in his capacity as Company Secretary during the last eight years.

i. Historian

The ISN Archives were initiated by Jordi Folch-Pi in 1977 and previous Historians were Abel Lajtha (1980 – 1983), Henry McIlwain (1983 – 1991), Gerald Curzon (1992 – 1999).

They are stored in files in heat- and acid-proof boxes in a separate small room in the School of Mathematics (adjoining Physics) at the University of Nottingham. Cataloguing of materials from ex-Officers is now complete and the Historian would welcome new material of interest from current ISN Officers.

It should be noted that due to our Registration as a Company in the UK, the official Minute Books of Business and Council Meetings must be held by the Company Secretary, rather than in the Archives. Therefore these will be transferred to John Clark in London when he becomes Company Secretary this summer.

David Shine has now placed the Archives catalogue on our ISN Portal, and items of interest can be accessed on request from the current Historian (Herman Bachelard, Phone: 44-115-951-4752;

Fax: 44-115-951-5166; email: herman.bachelard@nottingham.ac.uk).

Replies to requests would be expected to be by Fax as most of the materials are in non-electronic form.

Could I make a further plea for the inclusion of Historical Symposia or Workshops in some of our future meetings? These were discontinued after the Boston meeting in 1997 - the reason being that ISN meetings since then have been held jointly with our sister Societies (ASN, ESN and APSN) and the prevailing view was that there was insufficient space in the programmes.

However the points made by Gerald Curzon following the decision not to include an historical session in the Berlin meeting are worth re-iterating:

a)"The more knowledge accumulates, the more history there is to discuss - as the production of knowledge accelerates, its disappearance from our consciousness also

accelerates if history is neglected. In the absence of historical perspective, work done even as recently as 20 years ago is forgotten"

b) "In the past the historical sessions have generated attendances at least as large as many scientific ones".

My own feeling is that an historical session can put an interesting or controversial development in our science into perspective while it is still active in our collective memory?

It seems a real pity that these sessions appear to have fallen off the agenda!

The Science Museum in London has an extensive section devoted to Biochemistry, which includes a substantial amount of material of interest to neurochemists.

For example, about 20 or so of Thudichum's chemicals, Rapport's three original crystallised serotonin samples (published with structural analysis in 1948/9), and McIlwain's original prototype chopper made from war surplus materials. I am in contact with personnel in the Museum with the aim of obtaining a catalogue of their materials of interest to ISN members.

Thudichum's original purified lipids (choline platinochloride, lecithin cadmium chloride, phrenosine and kerasine) are currently held in a cupboard in the Dean's office at Guy's Hospital in London and I am trying to arrange for them to be stored in the Science museum.

j. Publication Committee

2002 was a good year for the Journal of Neurochemistry – standards of production and ranking were maintained and income was significantly higher. To date 2003 looks to be equally successful. Our relationship with Blackwell's (led by Amanda McLean-Inglis, and Simon Rallinson), both on a personal and corporate level is excellent and we have 2 first-rate hardworking Chief Editors and their offices. Thanks are also due from the ISN to our Deputy Chief Editors and Editorial Board without whose sterling efforts there would be no journal.

Finance

Full rate (i.e. print plus electronic) subscriptions enjoyed an attrition rate of less than 2% in 2002 [854 – 2001 : 832 – 2002] which according to the publishers is unusually low for a well-established journal such as J Neurochem. Despite this, total revenues were 21% up on 2001 figures due to increased income from online subscriptions and consortia licensing, and decreased costs (-11%). This resulted in an income of \$929K (USD) to ISN, 39% up on the 2001 income. A similar dollar income is forecast for 2003.

Subscriptions for 2003 are given below:

Institutions	paper & online	-	\$2646
	online only	-	2381
Individual	paper & online	-	670
	online only	-	603
Members	paper & online	-	200
	online only	-	12

It was agreed at the Journal Business Meeting in Newport Beach, in May 2003 that subscriptions would increase by 7% for 2004.

The availability of *J Neurochem* continues to increase annually, and at the end of 2002 was available to 2010 libraries worldwide through a combination of traditional subscriptions, site licence deals with consortia and electronic databases.

Editorial Offices

The two editorial offices continue to operate efficiently and effectively. Five new editors have been appointed to the Eastern Editorial Board to replace editors who have retired/rotated off. No changes have occurred to the Western Board. Phil Beart has retired as Reviews Editor to be succeeded by Michel Hamon and his sub-board. 2002 was the first full year operated online with 1416 full papers in toto [753 – East, 663 – West] and 103 rapids [55 – East, 45 – West] with almost 80% being submitted electronically. For 2003 (to date) papers are slightly above 2002's numbers with ~ 90% being submitted electronically. Acceptance rates for full papers in 2002 were the same in both offices ~40% and for rapids 22%. Operating online has meant a significant decrease in handling time in the East (meantime to 1st decision down from 48 to 38 days), whereas it has remained low in the West (28 days). Our aim is to have a review/mini review per issue – any suggestions from Council Members would be very welcome and should be directed to M. Hamon. The electronic submission package, Manuscript Central's Scholar One service, continues to work reasonably well with the occasional glitch – further developments are in the pipeline and version 3 will be launched later in 2003.

Citations

The journal currently enjoys an impact factor of 4.83 [2001] and ranks 27th journal of 198 in the Neurosciences category of the 2001 ISI listing and 55th of 308 in the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology category. This is broadly similar to 2000. 2002 impact factors should be available by the end of June 2003.

Supplements

These have been prepared and published for the ASN meeting in Newport Beach [May 4-8] and the ESN meeting in Warsaw [June 1-4]. Although the ISN/APS meeting in Hong Kong has had to be cancelled [Aug 3-8] due to the SARS crisis, nevertheless, the abstracts will be published as planned in a *J Neurochem* supplement. These abstracts and future ones will also be posted online.

Initiatives

Archives – these are now online back to 1994.

Online Early – this is a Blackwell initiative, whereby articles are posted online several days before the whole issue.

Online Availability - *J Neurochem* is available on Highwire as well as Blackwell's own 'Synergy'. *J Neurochem* articles were accessed more than 270,000 times on the latter in 2002 as compared to just over 200,000 times on Highwire. There may be a case for dispensing with Highwire since it is expensive to ISN (£72K).

Colour Prints – One free colour print/paper was offered to authors who were Members and as a membership inducement. This went into action in late 2002 – it seems to be running smoothly and will be reviewed in late 2003.

Board Membership 2002

J.B. Clark	-	Chairman, <i>London</i>
P.M. Beart	-	<i>Melbourne</i>
R. Butterworth	-	Ex-Officio, <i>Montreal</i>
B. Collier	-	Ex-Officio, <i>Montreal</i>
P. Dunkley	-	Ex-Officio, <i>Newcastle</i>
S. Murphy	-	<i>Nottingham</i>
I.J. Reynolds	-	<i>Pittsburg</i>
A. Schousboe	-	Ex-Officio, <i>Copenhagen</i>
H.D. Shine	-	<i>Houston</i>
H. Soreq	-	<i>Jerusalem</i>
A.J. Turner	-	Ex-Officio, <i>Leeds</i>

Michel Hamon, the new editor of reviews, will become member of the Publication Committee.

Ad 5 Matters arising from the First Council Meeting

The President reported that Council had decided that the Newsletter should primarily be published on the web; however, at the same time Council felt that parts of the Newsletter, e.g. advertisements of Meetings and Funding Programs should still be printed and mailed to the membership. The new President and the new Secretary will find practical ways to do this.

Moreover, the Membership Directory for ISN and the Sister Societies will in the future only be produced in electronic form. It had also been decided that a system should be set up to perform elections using e-mail ballots. The President and the Internet Committee chairperson will work out details and consult with the solicitors as to whether or not this may require a change of the by-laws.

In relation to the Treasurer's report Council had decided to increase the funding for CAEN. This issue would be further discussed at Council Meeting II.

Ad 6 Results of elections of new Secretary and Councillors

The President reported that a new Secretary and Councillors had been elected on June 23-24, 2003. HB and AS met in the Company Secretary's office in Nottingham on June 23-24, 2003 to count the ballots that had been received before the deadline for the election. There were 471 ballots of which 50 were found to be invalid.

The results of the election were as follows:

New Secretary: Agustina Garcia (Spain)

New Councillors: George DeVries (USA)
Gianfrancesco Goracci (Italy)
Kazuhiro Ikenaka (Japan)

Mary McKenna (USA)
Ursula Sonnewald (Norway)

Ad 7 Status after the cancellation of the ISN/APSN Meeting in Hong Kong 2003

Alfreda Stadlin, chairperson of the LOC, explained shortly the situation regarding the cancelled meeting in Hong Kong. She announced that arrangements had been made to use the Conference Centre in Hong Kong for an APSN Meeting to be held in the beginning of February, 2004.

The President informed that as a consequence of the cancellation of the Hong Kong Meeting Council had decided that the remaining funds of the originally allocated sum to run the Hong Kong meeting should be still used to stimulate neurochemistry in the Asian Pacific region. The Treasurer had calculated that the remaining funding would amount to 250,000 USD. Of this 150,000 USD should be made available to finance the above mentioned APSN Meeting in February, 2004. A condition for this is that the ISN Officers become members of the Program Committee. It also should be stressed that this arrangement for funding of a meeting of a Sister Society can not form a precedent. The remaining 100,000 USD should be set aside to be used for neurochemistry related activities in the Asian Pacific region and the mechanism for distribution of the funding should be based on applications to the Council. The Council will subsequently allocate the necessary funding for specific arrangements.

Moreover, it was pointed out by the President that in principle the scientific program of the Hong Kong Meeting is cancelled. The only exception is that the awarded lectureships for Young Investigators (two) will be honoured. This will be done by transferring these two lectures to the Focused Meeting in Avignon. Likewise the Advanced School should be transferred to be held in conjunction with the Focused Meeting in Avignon. These suggestions were unanimously accepted by the Council.

Ad 8 Status of the ISN/ESN joint Meeting, Innsbruck 2005

The chairperson of the LOC (Alois Saria) reported on the progress of the organization of the meeting. He had prepared drafts of posters and letterheads for the meeting and the design was debated. It was decided that Alois Saria should have this layout slightly modified. Website for the meeting is being prepared and hopefully it will be ready towards the end of September. It will be linked to the ISN website.

The registration fees were discussed and due to fluctuation in the exchange rate between the Euro and the USD, the registration fee in Euro will be slightly higher than at the time where the exchange rate between the Euro and the USD was below 1. The registration fee for members (early registration) will be 220 Euro and for students 100 Euro. The deadline for early registration and abstract submission is likely to be March 1, 2005.

The meeting will be promoted by presentation of flyers and posters at large international meetings such as Society for Neuroscience 2003 and 2004 and FENS 2004.

Alois Saria was complemented for his efficiency.

Ad 9 Presentation of proposals for 2007 Meeting

Cancun

The neuroscience community in Mexico City represented by Dr. Ricardo Tapia, Dr. Herminia Pasantes and Dr. Julio Moran had suggested Cancun as the venue for the 2007 ISN to be organised jointly with the ASN. Cancun has a spacious conference facility where four large lecture rooms are available together with space for poster presentation. This is within walking distance surrounded by a number of hotels of different categories ranging from five stars to adequate student accommodations. The prices range from USD 60 to 120 per night. Cancun is easily accessible from a large number of cities in North and South America as well as from Europe. Accessibility from the Asian Pacific region is somewhat more complicated. The registration fee was estimated to be 350 USD. AS had inspected the site as well as the hotels and clearly the facilities are excellent for our needs. The proposal was presented by Ricardo Tapia.

Montreal

On behalf of the neuroscience community in Montreal Dr. Mirko Diksic had submitted a proposal for hosting the 2007 ISN meeting in Montreal. Montreal has a very large conference centre which can easily accommodate four parallel lecture sessions plus space for posters. A number of hotels ranging from 3 to 4 stars are located within walking distance of the conference centre. Student accommodation is available at university dormitories which are located at a somewhat larger distance from the conference centre. Prices for student accommodation are about 20-30 USD per person and hotels range from 160-200 USD. The registration fee was estimated to 395 USD. AS had inspected the site as well as the hotels and clearly the facilities are excellent for our needs. The proposal was presented by Mirko Diksic and Marie-France Polidori from the Montreal Convention Centre.

Ad 10 Membership dues

The current membership fee will be maintained for 2003-2004.

Ad 11 Any other business

There was nothing for this item.

The Business Meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.