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Padova, Italy

Joerg Fuchs, MD
Tübingen, Germany

Alessandro Inserra, MD
Rome, Italy

Steve Shochat, MD
Memphis, Tennessee, USA

Roley Squire, MD
Leeds, UK

Hélène Martelli, MD
Past President
Paris, France

IPSO Newsletter January 2007

IPSO/SIOP Meeting 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland

The IPSO meeting in Geneva has been one of our most successful meetings ever. Not only were the amount of participants the first day over 300, which filled out the room completely and forced attendants to stand in the side ways with people lined up by the door. But also the second day, again the room was overfilled with participants. The program was of high scientific standards. The surgical abstracts rated high amongst the ones sent to the SIOP scientific committee. The keynote lecture on the new International Neuroblastoma Risk Group Staging System and its implications for Surgeons, was given by Tom Monclair, and was superb. Also the combined IPSO/SIOP session on Liver Transplantation for Childhood Hepatic Tumors was well attended. We have now reached a form of integration with SIOP that has been addressed very positively both by surgeons and non-surgeons. Again we have to be very grateful to our Program Director, Larry Hadley, who comprised an ever attractive and well balanced scientific program.

Also this year, IPSO received a sponsorship from Wright Medical Technology Inc. The money was appointed to the WMT-Best Paper Award (a first prize of US\$ 300 and a second prize of US\$ 200), and the WMT-Best Poster Award (a prize of US\$ 100). According to many of the IPSO Members, the awarding of the prizes was felt to be one of highlights of the meeting. This year's winners were:

- **First prize of the WMT-Best Paper Award:** *Guido Seitz, Tübingen, Germany.* 'Molecular and Optical Imaging Methods for *in vivo* Tracking of Pediatric Rhabdomyosarcoma metastasis'
- **Second prize of the WMT-Best Paper Award:** *Sandeep Agarwala, New Delhi, India.* 'Effect of Tumor Resection on Survival in Neuroblastoma Patients: Outcomes from AIIMS-Neuroblastoma-96 Trial'
- **WMT-Best Poster Award:** *Wenceslao Calonge, Madrid, Spain.* 'Pelvic Extrarenal Nephroblastoma with Rachideal Involvement'

Last but not least, our grateful thanks go to Christophe Chardot, the local Surgical Organizer, who meticulously organized the transplant session, and gave us a great Social Event, exactly fit to meet old friends, and make new ones.



Minutes of the IPSO Business Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland, September 19, 2006

36 IPSO members were present; Apologies: Gerry Haase

1. **Opening** at 17:20 PM
2. **Minutes IPSO meeting 2005 (Vancouver)** were accepted by the membership, and signed off by the President
3. **Report from the President.** The President stated that this would be the last IPSO Business Meeting of her Presidency. She thanked the membership for the pleasant years, already said goodbye and pointed to the importance that the membership should be increased.
4. **Report from the Treasurer** In October, the Treasurer will send a letter to the members who have outstanding dues. They will be given the choice to either pay their dues, or the IPSO membership will be cancelled. Next year, the overview of payments should be accurate. The present bank account carries a 2.8% interest which is currently the most available. Investments were considered to be too risky and therefore not a good plan.
5. **Proposal for Statutes changes (Hadley/Haase)** Mainly two changes of the statutes have been suggested by the statutes committee. (1) The EC accounts for over 10% of the membership, which is too large, and should therefore be reduced (Statutes Chapter III, article 5). (2) More democracy has been wished and can be created by having members be nominated for posts by any other active member, rather than through the EC (Bylaws Chapter II, article 3). The text of the statutes has been changed accordingly. The membership also wanted to change the period between proposed amendments in the statutes and the voting to 2 months, instead of 6 months (Statutes Chapter VII, article 12). It was discussed by the membership, and then accepted to wait with the voting until the BM in Mumbai (2007). It will be put in the January and July Newsletter that members who are not able to be at the Mumbai meeting can send their written vote to the Secretariat. This meant that this year's election for new EC members was to be continued, and dependent of the vote of next year, the EC will be decreased by natural attrition.
6. **Election of EC members? (Nominees for the Executive Council 2006 had all had been informed that there may or may not be elections!)** The three nominees present introduced themselves, and said in brief words why they were willing to stand for the election. Bruce Broecker introduced Hugo Heij who was absent. **Patrizia Dall'Igna, Italy, Joerg Fuchs, Germany, and Steve Shochat, USA** were elected, and then congratulated and welcomed by the President
7. **(re) Election of the Secretary – Nominees: Aronson (3rd term)** No other nominees had been suggested by either the Membership or the EC members. Aronson was re-appointed by acclamation.
8. **Election of new Members. New Applicants for the IPSO membership:**

Zacharias J de Langen, the Netherlands	(sponsors: Aronson/Heij)
Jean-Marc Joseph, France	(sponsors: Martelli/Chardot)
Jean-Luc Michel, France	(sponsors: Martelli/Sarnacki)
Hanan Mohamed Ahmed Said, UK/Egypt	(sponsors: Corbally/Fitzgerald)
Sushmita N. Bhatnagar, India	(sponsors: Hadley/Aronson)
Israel Fernández-Pineda, Spain	(sponsors: Rao/Aronson)
Rosa Cabello Laureano, Spain	(sponsors: Rao/Aronson)
George Spyridis, Greece	(sponsors: Rao/Aronson)
Andrew M. Davidoff, USA	(sponsors: Shochat/Rao)
Ashish Saharia, USA	(sponsors: Rao/Aronson)

All new members were accepted, and were welcomed by the President. We all hope to see them at many IPSO meetings and hope they are willing to be nominated for posts.
9. **Recruitment of new IPSO members** See under point 3. Every member is asked to accrual as many new members as possible!
10. **Future Oncology Meetings: IPSO at EUPSA 2007 Torino, Italy – interactive Oncology Course; Combined IPSO/APSA meeting, USA, 2008**
 - (1) IPSO/EUPSA. The second part of the course has again been highly rated by the participants, who participated in a lesser amount than at the first part of the course (25 vs. 43). After the third part of the course is given in Torino, the EUPSA board will decide whether the course will be continued. Those present who are Directors of Training Programs were asked to send as many of their trainees to this course. Cenk Buyukunal expected many Turkish trainees to take the course at EUPSA in Turkey.
 - (2) IPSO/APSA. A major break through has been achieved, thanks to the activity of Rebecca Meyers in the

APSA program committee, and thanks to Michael LaQuaglia, who organized a 10.000 US\$ grant for the combined meeting. This means that this time there are no financial problems for the combined meeting. Bruce Broecker, Rebecca Meyers, Daniel van Alleman, and Dietrich von Schweinitz will make a concept-program. A strong representation of IPSO will be of great importance to the success of this meeting! So do plan this meeting in your agenda's.

11. **Program Director: IPSO 2007 at Mumbai** A small video was presented by Susmita Bhatnagar.
12. **PBC (Pediatric Blood and Cancer); subscriptions, future relations** There are no (severe) problems in the relationship with PBC. The matter of the double subscriptions will again be discussed with Arcici, the Editor in Chief. Changes of the Editorial Board will be suggested at the upcoming Board meeting: Richard Spicer (replacing Helene Martelli), Bashkar Rao, and Dietrich von Schweinitz will be suggested to become part of PBC's Editorial Board as representatives of IPSO.
13. **The new IPSO President** Helene Martelli handed over the IPSO presidency to Richard Spicer by giving him the IPSO chain of office. Spicer thanked her and the Membership for the trust they have in him as their new President.
14. **Any other business** - there was no other business.
15. **Adjournment** at 18:35 PM

From the Treasurer

By the end of February, the letters of dues will be sent out to the Membership. There is always some confusion about the membership number asked on the form. This form is also used by SIOP for SIOP members and refers to the SIOP number, BUT NOT to the IPSO number. Thus, with the payment of IPSO dues, no membership number has to be added!

The good news is that almost all 2004 dues have been paid. But the bad news is that there are still too many outstanding payments thereafter! Of the 135 members, 69 still have to pay their 2005 dues and 80 still have to pay their 2006 dues. Please be prompt with your payment this time and make sure you also pay your outstanding dues. Payments are easy and can be done with credit cards, so there should be no excuse. Note that you will lose your IPSO membership if payments have not been received for three years!

Fund raising for the IPSO/SIOP meeting

The executive Board would like to ask all members to try and contribute to Fund raising for our annual meeting. You can contribute by contacting any (medical) firm you regard as a potential donor that would be receptive to sponsorship. In case of a fruitful contact, please pass this information to either our Program Director (hadley@nu.ac.za), President (Richard.Spicer@ubht.nhs.uk), or to the Secretary (d.c.aronson@amc.uva.nl).

From the Secretary

Together with this Newsletter, you'll find the new IPSO Membership Directory that appears every two years. This year, its printing time took longer than expected, reason that you receive your winter newsletter later than you are used to. Please check your name, (e-mail) address, phone/fax numbers, and/or affiliation, and please forward any corrections and future changes to the Secretariat!

Who of you is aware of the new address of the following IPSO members:

- dr. Kinji Yokomori, Japan (formerly from Tokyo)
- dr. Edson Michalkiewicz, Brazil (formerly from Curitiba)

Note that this year's dead line for the IPSO abstracts is April 15th. Presentations for the difficult case session can be submitted without abstract at the meeting. They must fit within one of the following

categories. ‘Cry for help’, ‘the most stupid thing I ever did’, ‘a good trick that can be of use’, or ‘follow up from the good advice you gave me last year’. Note that this year, the difficult case session will take place on the 1st day of IPSO.

The first preparations of the **IPSO/APSA meeting** have started! The program committee has been installed, and includes Bruce Broecker, Rebecka Myers, Dietrich von Schweinitz, Daniel von Allman, and Steve Shochat. The format will be as before - a combination of topic oriented invited panel discussions and submitted abstracts/posters. Topics will be Wilms Tumor, Neuroblastoma, and surgical controversies in local tumor control. Speakers have not yet been invited, though a list of possibilities is developing. Put it already down in your agenda’s: The dates are May 28-June 1, 2008; location - Marriott Desert Ridge, Phoenix Arizona (desert Southwest). We all would like and will expect a robust participation of IPSO members!

News from the Program Committee

The quality of the IPSO programme is entirely dependent upon the quality of the work submitted for presentation by you, the membership. That this has been of a high, and ever improving standard, is evidenced by the popularity of our sessions amongst the SIOP members. In Geneva several of our sessions were “standing room only” and for at least one session the numbers were restricted by the Fire Department as we contravened the licensing regulations regarding overcrowding!! Perhaps regrettably the IPSO membership could not possibly have achieved this on their own.

So from a scientific perspective the meeting will, I’m confident, continue IPSO’s tradition of innovative presentations by the membership and our usual raucous debates in the “Difficult Cases” sessions that continue to be popular. Please bring with you your “Difficult” presentations as four or five Powerpoint slides and book time at the lectern with either Dan Aronson or Bruce Broecker at the meeting itself. This is run very much on a “first come – first served” basis, so catch them early.

Abstracts submitted for the main program will again be scored anonymously by a panel including members of the SIOP Scientific Committee in an attempt to make the process of selection as objective as possible. To maintain this anonymity it is helpful if there are no clues to the origins of the paper concealed in the submitted abstract. Once again Case Reports will only be considered for poster presentation. This is not to undermine their importance but it is felt that the limited podium time should be first offered to those presenting the results of their studies. The Executive Committee is once again grateful to Wright Medical for sponsoring the Poster Prize.

This year amongst the many innovations introduced by the Mumbai team there will be a pre-congress two-day course on the surgical aspects of paediatric oncology, including the surgery itself, led by local experts with the support of IPSO faculty. The enthusiasm of local surgical trainees and specialists will make this a vibrant and enjoyable experience.

From a social perspective the IPSO meeting in Mumbai is un-missable. Incredible India is waiting for us!!

Larry Hadley, Program Director

Presidents Corner

It is with great pleasure and a great sense of honour that I greet you as your new President. The important work that we do must continue and I am always aware of the great variability of circumstances and environments in which you all work. Wherever we work the support and advice of colleagues and the knowledge that surgeons around the world are encountering similar problems from day to day should be a source of comfort to us all.

The 2006 Geneva Meeting was a great success and it was a pleasure to see so many old friends and meet some new ones in Geneva. The 2007 Meeting in India promises to be a very special and it should be an especially exciting prospect for those who have not previously had the opportunity to visit this wonderful country.

I do hope that we will have a good turnout in Mumbai and I encourage you all to make every effort to attend if at all possible. I look forward to seeing you there and wish you a successful and happy year in the meantime.

Richard Spicer, President

Interested in developing a career in academic pediatric surgical oncology?

The Department of Surgery at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital seeks:

An Assistant/Associate: A surgeon with a strong basic science or clinical research interest. Financial support, space, and mentorship will be offered to aide successful academic development. The individual will be responsible for assisting with the management of the clinical service at St. Jude and mentoring pediatric surgical oncology fellows. He/she will have the opportunity to participate in the general pediatric surgical practice at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center and be actively involved in the approved LeBonheur/St. Jude general pediatric surgical fellowship program.

A Clinical Scholar: The successful candidate will hold a faculty position at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for a 2- 3 year period and benefit from mentorship in clinical pediatric surgical oncology and clinical research. The Clinical Scholar position is intended to prepare a surgeon for an academic position with an emphasis in pediatric surgical oncology. The curriculum for this position will be designed according to the interest of the candidate.

We would appreciate hearing about anyone who you feel would be a good candidate for either of these two positions.

Stephen J. Shochat, M.D.

Andrew Davidoff, M.D.

APPLICATION for IPSO membership

(please print)

NAME OF APPLICANT

TITLE

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

NATIONALITY

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

NAME OF SPONSOR 1

NAME OF SPONSOR 2

PLEASE RETURN WITH YOUR C.V. TO THE IPSO SECRETARIAT

Daniel C. Aronson, Emma Children's Hospital, PO BOX 22700, 1100 DE Amsterdam, The Netherlands