



ISPN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**of the International Society for Pediatric
Neurosurgery**



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ISPN Annual report 2019

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Tadanori Tomit



SECRETARY

Adrian Caceres, Costa Rica

Three successful vEB meetings have been conducted along the past year and they were held on January 23 (22 attendees), May 7 (19 attendees) and August 19 (26 attendees); meetings' minutes have been thankfully prepared with the help of Linda Bosschers and Gergana Georgieva and have been distributed for your further revision and archive.

Two of the most important highlights from these vEB meetings are the consideration and approval of inviting senior members of the ISPN to participate free of charge in the welcome reception at the ISPN annual meeting and also the creation of a session within the scientific program that will be devoted to ISPN history.

The ISPN has also participated in the distribution of the following surveys:

- **10th April - Survey on Spina Bifida Management - Rob de Jong**, ISPN member, Pediatric Neurosurgeon, Sophia Childrens Hospital, Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- **19th September - Survey on Hydrocephalus Management, Bermans J. Iskandar, MD (ISPN Member)** and Felissa Hong, BS, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin

TREASURER

Michael Handler, USA

The last year has seen financial stability, and the Society's position remains very strong.

Current Assets (31 August 2019)

Total \$891,762

Summary, ISPN Income and Expenses

Income

Total \$219,393

Expenditures

Total \$200,840



AUDIT COMMITTEE

Frederick Boop, USA

- 1) The 2017 taxes were submitted and appear in order. The 2018 taxes are in preparation and the tax return will need to be reviewed by our committee upon completion;
- 2) The treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted. The 2018 Tel Aviv meeting was over budget but because of robust membership dues collections, the ISPN had a net profit for the year. It should be noted that this is the third year in a row that the annual meeting has been over budget rather than generating income for the society

The Audit Committee agrees with the recommendation of the Treasurer, Dr. Handler, that an ad hoc committee composed of past meeting presidents, past treasurers, and a representative from Kenes, should be formed to review investment options which might allow the following:

- a) better interest earnings on our cash reserves than we are currently seeing with standard CDs (<1%);
- b) a plan to partner with our industry sponsored for more robust and predictable sponsorship from one meeting to the next;
- c) to determine where the society can economize in our annual meetings such that we can stay under budget or generate revenue;
- d) ensure that the above do not jeopardize the ISPN's not for profit status.

The Audit Committee would be pleased to make a formal report of the committee's findings at next year's annual meeting in Singapore.





ISPN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Sandip Chatterjee, Italy/ Nelci Zanon, Brazil (Co-Chair)

Onsite educational courses

The Education Committee conducted the following Courses:

List of ISPN courses

2018

1. Myanmar, Yangon – November 2018
2. Russia, Moscow – December 2018

2019

3. Indonesia

18 – 21 January 2019 – Bandung

Faculty: P. Steinbok, G. Tamburrini, A. Alias

Participants: 108

4. India

15-16 February 2019 – Delhi

Faculty: S. Chatterjee, WT Seow, T. Inagaki, J. Goodrich, N. Zanon

Participants: 78

5. Bangladesh

1 – 3 March 2019 – Dhaka

Faculty: S. Chatterjee, S. Gorelyshev, Young – Shin Ra, N. Muthukumar, J. Blount

Participants: 102

6. Ghana

31 May – 1 June 2019 – Accra

Faculty: G. Fieggen, S. Chatterjee, N. Zanon, A. Sinha, B. Pettorini, P. Ssenyounga

Participants: 68

7. China

21 – 23 June 2019 – Guangzhou

Faculty: WT Seow, KC Wang, S. Shankla, B. Roque

Participants: 110

8. Kazakhstan



11 – 13 July 2019 – Astana

Faculty: N. Zanon, S. Constantini, Artur Da Kunha, S. Gorelyshev, M. Handler

Participants: 50

9. Georgia

20 – 21 September – Tbilisi

Faculty: S. Chatterjee, N. Zanon, S. Gorelyshev, G. Tamburini, S. Shankla

Participants: 68

10. Argentina – November 2019

2020 ISPN Courses Applicants

Asia

1. Myanmar, Yangon (M. Wyang)
2. India, Bangalore (S. Raju)
3. Vietnam, Hanoi (V. Dong)

Africa

4. Cameroon (G. Fieggen)
5. Uganda (P. Ssenyonga)

Euroasia

6. Russia, Sochi (S. Gorelyshev)
7. Kazakhstan, Almaty (M. Rabandiyarov)
8. Croatia (M. Gjurasin)

South America

9. Brazil, Sao Paolo (N. Zanon)

Summary

The number of Faculty used was 36, 12 of whom were faculty in ISPN Courses for the first time. The Guide was widely promoted at every Course, where Faculty were asked to give a summary based on the facts mentioned in the Guide.

The APP was used to present MCQ tests to be taken before and after the Course.

To streamline the process of applying for an ISPN Course in any country, a set of guidelines have been drawn up and approved in an earlier EB meeting. These guidelines should be available at the website.

The total amount of reimbursement made to Faculty as travel grants has been 35 500 USD this year. Reimbursements have not yet been made for Georgia and Argentina Courses. With additional payment of 5 000 USD for the African Course, 40,500 USD have been used from this years budget allocation of 57 500USD.

For next year, it is proposed to induct 1-2 new faculty from the volunteer pool for each Course to infuse fresh talent into the teaching category.



COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Ash Singhal, Canada/ Ramiro del Rio, Argentina/Federico Di Rocco, France/Benedetta Pettorini, United Kingdom/Llewelyn Padayachy, South Africa

This report represents the activities of the communications committee of the ISPN, from October 2018-September 2019. The committee is comprised of:

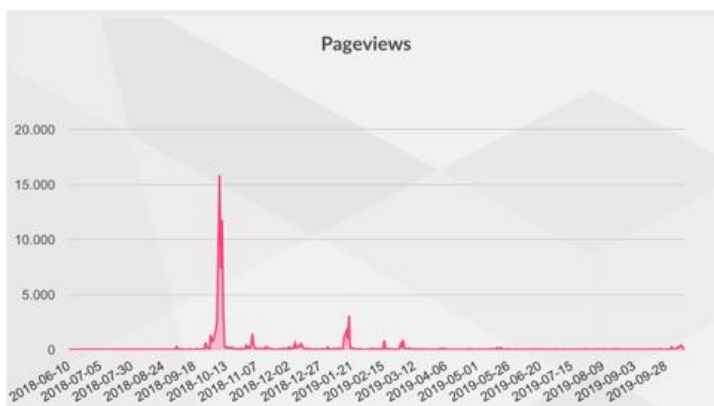
Dr. Ramiro Del Rio (Argentina) – Mobile App
 Dr. Llewellyn Padayachy (South Africa) – Industry Liaison
 Dr. Benedetta Pettorini (UK) – Social Media
 Dr. Federico Di Rocco (France) – Co-Chair
 Dr. Ash Singhal (Canada) – Chair

This report has been created with direct written input from each of the subsections of the committee.

Mobile App

(contributed by Dr. del Rio)

- Crowdcorns company have been selected as manager of the app during the period 2018-2019, after collaboration and input directly from the Executive Board of ISPN, via scheduled teleconference.
- The company provides the app platform, training and design for the meeting, and the fee for last period was GBP 5,000.
- Ramiro del Rio co-chair communication was designated to be in charge of the app.
- This tool was used during ISPN meeting in Israel 2018. Attendees were able to check the program, faculty, and vote during interactive sessions.
- ISPN members could vote the candidates for the nominating committee during the business meeting available in the members only section.
- During the remainder of the year the app was updated for the ISPN courses in Myanmar, Indonesia, Russia and India.
- In each course the attendees had to answer a test at the start of the course and at the end – which is now facilitated entirely by the App. The results were sent by mail to the Education Chairman.
- There were also direct links to ISPN important topics and members section.
- ISPN message were sent by the app in order to facilitate rapid communication with the membership.
- The analytics (graph below) show that the app was used mostly during 2018 meeting and in each course, particularly the one that took place in Russia.



Social Media

(contributed by Dr.Pettorini)

A literature search of use of social networks among surgeons has shown controversial results.

Many surgeons use some form of social media for professional purposes. However, there are also perceived barriers such as lack of value, time constraints and personal and patient privacy concerns.

There is definitely a generational difference in surgeon attitude which suggests use of social networks may expand over time.

There is no doubt that the use of social media in healthcare can help researchers to keep more updated. Also, it could allow surgeons to stay within a network along with the surrounding community and help sharing content to a big audience. However, regulation of information shared has to be considered.

After exploring the considerable workload involved in maintaining a well-regulated (and with consistent oversight) regular social media presence, combined with the potential pitfalls involved in institutional social media, it is the considered opinion that ISPN should have a more complete discussion prior to this kind of large undertaking. Questions to be considered include aims (including training, sharing, advertising), the rationale for the investment (time and/or money) and also potential pitfalls and mitigation strategies. (An example of a major potential pitfall would be an unregulated social media post – Facebook/Twitter/other, that portrays the society in a bad light or takes an unrelated political or social stance, and results in a rift in our collaborative pediatric neurosurgical society – one which has a broad membership from a cultural, religious, and political background).

Industry Liaison

(contributed by Dr.Padayachy)

The portfolio of Co-Chair Communication for ISPN2019 has been a challenging, but quite enjoyable role. I have communicated closely with the Kenes project manager for the ISPN2019 meeting, Merve Tufeci, and Congress president Guirish Solanki with the allocation of duty in this regard. I was asked by both to specifically focus on two companies that had not committed to participating as sponsors for ISPN 2019, these were *LISA Laser* and *Karl Storz*. The benefit of this was allocation and discussion avoiding duplication and confusion when communicating with the companies.

We aimed to optimize the package sponsorship amount from both companies by providing optimizing specific sponsorship packages for them, specifically involving the neuroendoscopy and minimally invasive surgery component of their offerings.

The negotiation process was quite long and tedious, and given the current financial climate, took a lot of perseverance and patience which myself and Merve together with Guirish Solanki managed to optimize eventually.

The final secured sponsorship from these two companies (which at the beginning of our negotiations, had not committed to partnering with ISPN2019):

Lisa laser – 6,000 pounds

Karl Storz – 20, 000 pounds



Benefits:

1. Underscored the usefulness of working together (ISPN member, organizing manager and congress president) in securing additional funding for the ISPN.
2. Will assist in securing a long-term relationship between the ISPN and industry by directly the unique and diverse benefits our particular specialty provides, as well the fact that our experts are often also experts in other areas. This potentially removes some of the skepticism some of the companies continually highlight, namely that this a very small part of their business, and they are therefore hesitant to commit financially.
3. Has stimulated innovative thinking in terms of workshops etc. as possibilities for increasing industry support.

Challenges:

1. Economic climate is clearly difficult and most companies are a lot tighter on their spending in this area.
2. The bigger companies view pediatric neurosurgery as a very small part of their business and are quite limited in the budget allocation.
3. Duplication of duty can be confusing, i.e. which is PCO responsibility and which ISPN communication responsibility (fortunately communication was clear and pleasant between Merve, Guirish and I).
4. As this was the first time this portfolio was embarked on, I feel there were predictable learning curves and difficulties, but certainly created a platform for strengthening this relationship between industry, the ISPN and the PCO.

Summary

The ISPN Communications committee has had a very strong year. The migration of the website was completed the previous year, and the analytics on the new website demonstrate a consistent usage of the site, which is the main electronic interface between our membership and the society. The website has been continuously updated, and functionality has been maintained virtually the entire year, with only brief (hours) outages.

The expansion of the Communications committee from 2 members to 5 members has resulted in additional focus on areas of interest to the Executive Board.

Going forward, there continue to be substantial challenges with Industry support, and while that is expected, future meeting chairs and the communications committee industry liaison will need to be mindful of the lessons learning in this past year, in order to continue to build these relationships.

Going forward with the App, the ISPN communications Mobile App member will need to have familiarity with the challenges of App platforms, and enthusiasm to continue to build on a tool that has provided great functionality at the annual meetings and education events of the ISPN.

Going forward with a social media presence will require additional discussions by the Executive Board regarding the goals and pitfalls of social media, and the risk-reward for ISPN specifically.

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Zulma Tovar – Spinoza, USA/ Neelam Krishnan Venkataramana, India (Co-Chair)

The ISPN Liaison Committee is actively engaged in networking the different neurosurgical societies and organizations that aim to improve the care for pediatric neurosurgical patients. In this regard, we are pleased to report the different ventures we have been engaged this year.

Updated Data on Neurosurgical Societies Liaisons

The ISPN Liaison Committee collected the most upstate list of contacts for the different Neurosurgical societies, Electronic communications and live communications through What's App and added for collaborations and updates (ISPN Liaison, WIN's group WINP in USA, ISPN EB, WIN young, Pediatric neurosurgery, Neurocirujanas de Mexico, Neuro Cir Ped Lat Am, Latin American Liaison).

Coordinate and solve conflicting dates of the ISPN meeting with other meetings

Given the conflicting issues faced during the last couple of years with colliding dates of the ISPN meeting with other important international meetings, The ISPN Liaison Committee communicated continues to collect the available dates for other Societies Meetings next years. We have updated to other societies the dates of the ISPN upcoming meetings.

Combined activities with ISPN and Other Pediatric Neurosurgical Societies and or Departments.

AANS/CNS Pediatric Section, USA

The ISPN Liaison Committee worked with the AANS/CNS pediatric section liaison representative Dr Eylem Ocal, to continue the collaboration plan between the two organizations as presented bellow; last year we approved* to have representatives of both organizations on each meeting, we continue conversations to coordinate courses and other aspects of collaborations (attached the initial proposal presented last year).

Intersurgeon has been presented by Dr Harkness at the AANS meeting.

Proposal For Working Collaboration between AANS/CNS Joint Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery and International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN)

The AANS/CNS Joint Section of Pediatric Neurological Surgery and International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN) share similar aims and perspectives to improve care of children with pediatric neurological diseases through education, research, innovation, local and global community outreach. To reach shared goals a collaborative effort remains essential. These collaborations may include collective educational courses, international research partnerships, joint meetings, training international fellows from resource poor countries; establishing worldwide accepted basic guidelines and applicable policies for patient care.

Therefore, below are proposed topics for collaboration jointly by the liaisons of both societies.

1. *Sponsored lectures in annual meetings of the societies:

This will increase recognition and open avenues for discussion between the two societies. Establishing one main topic invited lecture under the title of AANS/CNS Joint Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery Lecture in the annual meeting of ISPN and vice versa at the annual





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meeting of Section from ISPN under the title of ISPN lecture by a non –American member of ISPN. The lecturers should be appointed by the societies from within their members. The names of the speakers and the topic should be provided in a timely manner to the scientific and organizing committees via liaisons. The sponsorship will include travel and accommodation.

2. Jointly sponsored international courses:

ISPN has educational courses throughout the year. Joint Section and ISPN can sponsor selected Section Members together as course faculty. This should be easy to achieve since many Section members already serve as faculty in these courses. This may in turn increase attendance by both section and ISPN members through wider spread promotion. Additionally, conflicting dates in organized events and courses with similar topics in a calendar year may be avoided.

Joint Section has a guidelines committee. This committee can contribute with a selected member to serve at ISPN Guidelines committee that is being formed to help establish globally accepted pediatric neurosurgery guidelines and vice versa a selected ISPN member can serve at the Joint Section Committee. These members should be appointed by the Executive Boards amongst qualified members.

3. Promotion of International Fellowships:

Advertisement of Joint Section's International Traveling Fellowship Award through ISPN website.

4. Global Outreach Efforts:

The global educational and clinical outreach efforts should be combined and action should be taken as one body. Mapping the pediatric neurosurgical care needs around the globe separately may cause repetition rather than sustainability, decrease efficiency and may waste valuable efforts. Dr. Harkness was suggesting such a map for ISPN but there is certainly room for collaboration. We can also post this map on the Joint Section 's website and provide content.

5. Action Plan:

1-Liaison's has brought this proposal to the attention of the newest Executive Committees of the related societies for suggestions and approval.

Active participation and representation of the ISPN Liaison Committee in the International Societies – in the Pediatric Neurosurgical Sessions and promotion of these events through the Liaison Committee and through the Education Committee.

The ISPN Liaison Sub-Committee Women in Pediatric Neurosurgery

The ISPN Liaison Committee initiated a study on possible gender disparities in pediatric neurosurgery. In that regard, a networking effort has been created through the WFNS/WIN section. The survey intended to collect and analyze the data about the experiences of women in academic and non-academic neurosurgery to better understand the factors that have impacted their ability to advance in their neurosurgical carriers. The first ISPN round table discussing this topic was very successful during the Tel Aviv meeting, we collected a global participation presenting the survey through different groups and societies. We continue to work with the



WFNS Pediatric Neurosurgery committee on trying to present the survey on a platform suitable for the Chinese colleagues.

ISPN Birmingham Meeting Promotion

The ISPN Liaison Committee has worked closely with Kenes and the organizing committee on the active promotion of the Birmingham Meeting. The ISPN Liaison Committee has facilitated the information process in regards of visas, funding and scholarships.

We have also helped recruit some sponsorship for the 2019 meeting contacting some vendors.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Anthony Figaji, South Africa/ Ji Yeoun Lee, South Korea (co-Chair)

Report as of 26 September 2019

Membership growth

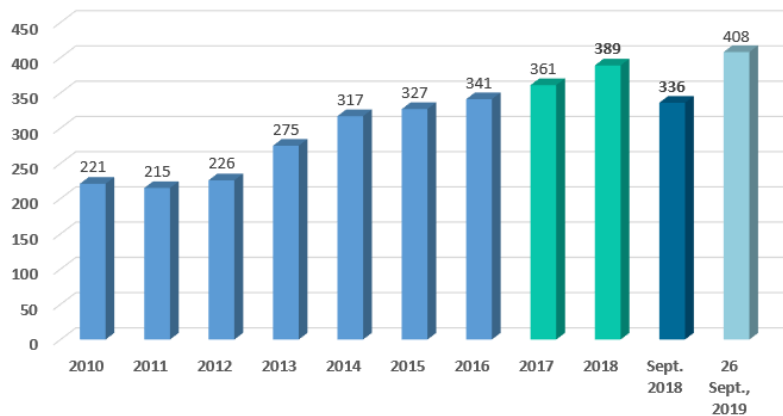
Compared to the same period in 2018, the renewal rate is higher – ISPN has 408 members vs 336 in September 2018.

Applications & renewals

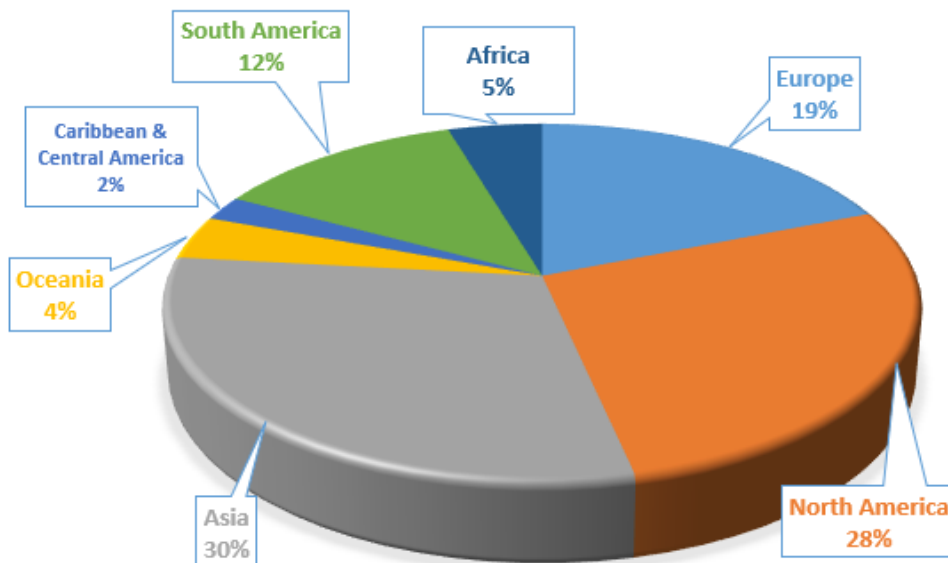
From the 408 Active members 327 had renewed from 2018 (80%); 37 from previous years (9%) and there are 44 new approved members (+ another 33 that are pending).

ISPN has members from 56 countries; the top 10 countries are:

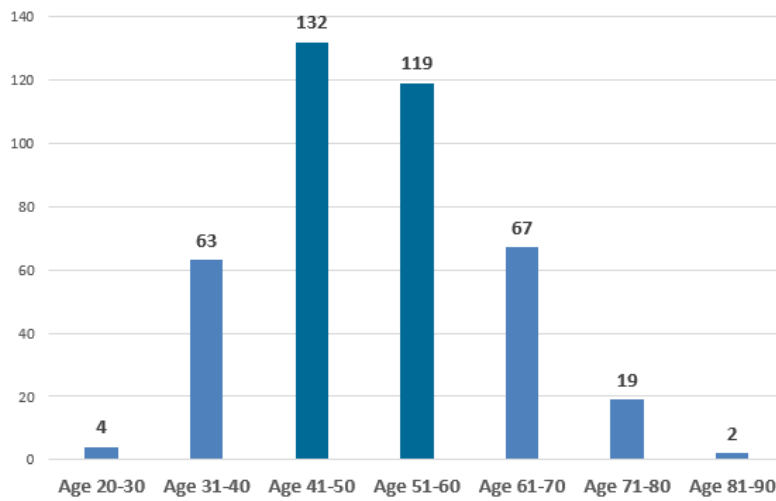
1. USA – 102
2. Japan - 40
3. Brazil – 32
4. United Kingdom-23
5. India - 19
6. Germany - 15
7. Australia - 14
8. Argentina - 13
9. Canada - 11
10. Republic of Korea – 10



Membership per region

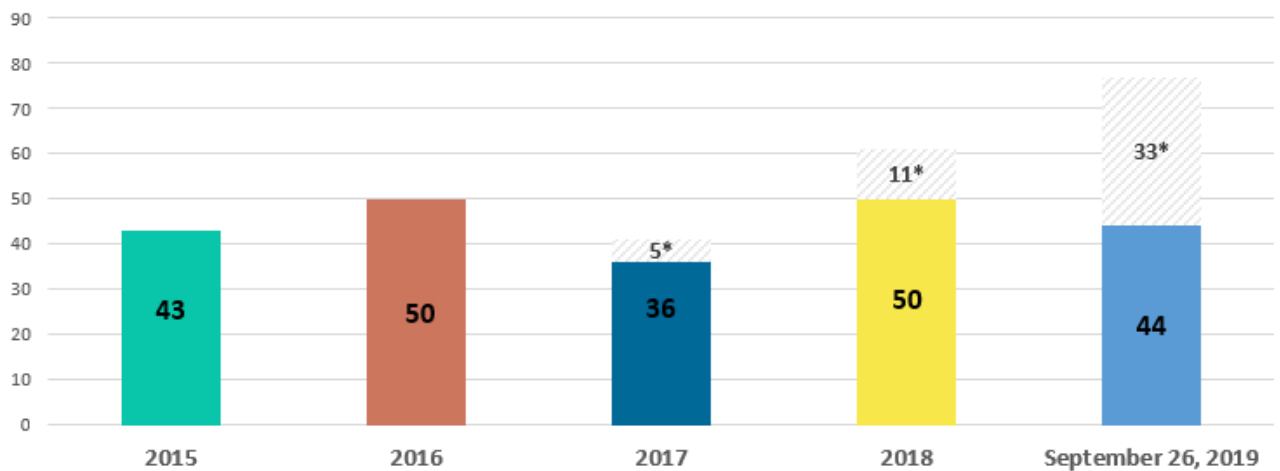


The average age of ISPN members is 51.

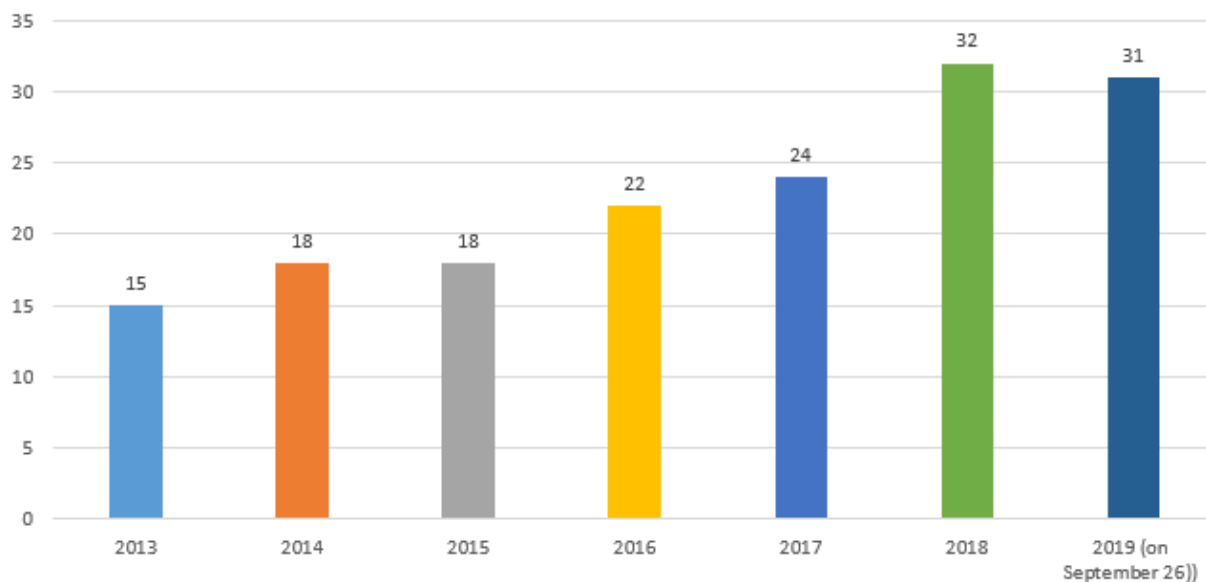


New members

44 new members have currently been approved for 2019. Applicants with Pending Approval status were reminded once again in September to provide their reference letters. Prof. Fieggen has also been involved to resolve the pending status for these applications.



No. of LMIC Members



Journal

299 members opted for access to the online journal; 104 receive also the printed version; 5 members opted to not receiving the journal.

Donations

By 26 September 2019 ISPN has received 11 donations amounting to 905 USD in total.

Category	No. of Donations	Amount in USD
Membership donation for a non-specific member: Active Member from LMIC - \$100	5	500.00
Membership donation for a non-specific member: Nursing and AHP Member from LMIC - \$35	4	140.00
Unrestricted public donation: Support specialists from LMIC	1	250.00
Unrestricted public donation: Support neurosurgical scientific research	1	15.00
Total:		905.00

ACTION: Executive Board to make a decision on the allocation of the donations received, specifically who will be supported for payment of membership dues.

Automatic renewal for 2020



The Automatic Renewal option was implemented at the beginning of the 2018 membership year. 134 members have subscribed for automatic membership renewal for 2020. These renewals will be processed by the Membership Coordinator (MC) by November 5th, 2019.

Suggestions/recommendations from Membership Chair

- To simplify the membership approval process

Membership Application	Actions/ New requirements
Active member applications where the applicant does not know any members	Put the applicant in contact with the local ISPN representative in the region
Active member applications where the applicant is from region with no ISPN members	Letter from their departmental head or their neurosurgery society Attendance at an ISPN meeting
Candidate members* who do not know any ISPN members	Letter from their departmental head Letter from one of the ISPN members in the region
Candidate members* who do not know any ISPN members and there are no ISPN Members in the region	Letter from their departmental head Proof of attendance of ISPN Meeting
*Candidate Members	Restriction of years of membership

Other recommendations

- To appoint Ambassadors for each region to promote ISPN activities and mission
- More active involvement of the Membership Committee and the Ambassadors in encouraging new members/renewals
- Review the current membership benefits
- The Membership Committee to create an action plan to attract more members from LMIC and Candidate Members, possibly in conjunction with education courses or a mentorship program
- To strengthen the social media presence of ISPN in order to reach the audience of specialists who may apply for category Candidate Members, as well as for Nurses & AHPs category



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Francesco Sala, Italy/ Abhaya Kulkarni, Canada (Co-Chair)

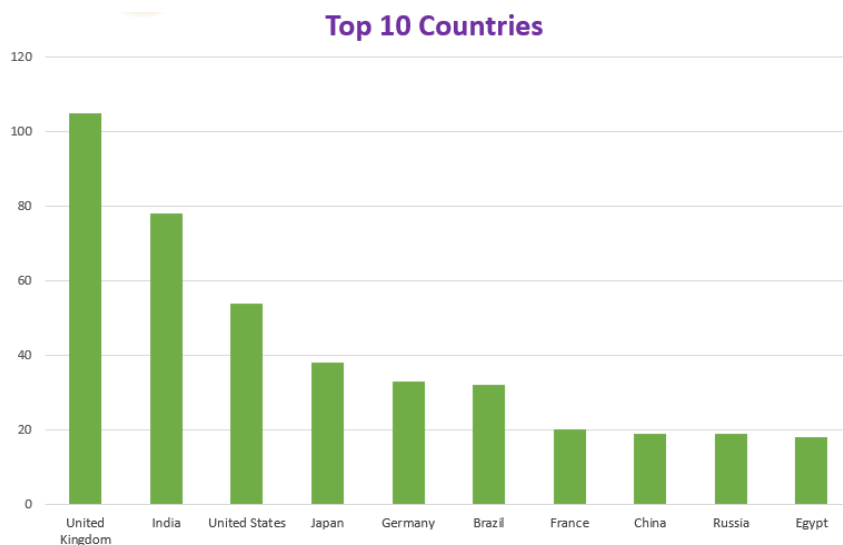
For the 47th Annual Meeting of ISPN 594 abstracts were accepted and 9 were rejected.

Breakdown of abstracts submitted by country

Country	Number of Abstracts				
		Germany	33	Romania	2
Algeria	10	Greece	5	Russia	19
Argentina	4	Guinea	3	Saudi Arabia	9
Australia	1	Hong Kong	1	Senegal	3
Austria	1	India	78	Singapore	3
Azerbaijan	1	Indonesia	8	South Africa	2
Bangladesh	4	Iran	4	South Korea	11
Belarus	4	Ireland	2	Spain	4
Belgium	1	Israel	3	Sudan	3
Brazil	32	Italy	15	Sweden	1
Canada	2	Japan	38	Switzerland	1
Chile	1	Kuwait	1	Taiwan	5
China	19	Malaysia	6	Thailand	1
Colombia	1	Mexico	6	Tunisia	8
Costa Rica	2	Morocco	2	Türkiye	4
Croatia	1	Nepal	2	Ukraine	8
Egypt	18	Netherlands	5	United Kingdom	105
Ethiopia	3	Nigeria	8	United States	54
Finland	1	Pakistan	5	Uzbekistan	1
France	20	Philippines	3	Vietnam	1
Gambia	1	Portugal	3	Grand Total	603

Top 10 Submitting Countries

United Kingdom	105
India	78
United States	54
Japan	38
Germany	33
Brazil	32
France	20
China	19
Russia	19
Egypt	18



Deadlines

	2018	2019
Opening of Abstract Submission System	10 November	4 January
Abstract Submission Deadline	2 April	1 April
Extended Submission Deadline	16 April	15 April
Reviewing Process	20 April–4 May	29 April - 2 May
Tentative Scientific Program	--	4 May – 15 May
Acceptance Letters	22 May	21 May
Registration Deadline (plan)	1 June	31 May

Program topics

General topics

- Antenatal diagnosis and treatment
- Dysraphism
- Epilepsy
- Functional
- Global Neurosurgery
- Hydrocephalus
- Infection
- Innovation and Technology
- Neuro-Oncology
- Neurotrauma/Critical Care
- Spine
- Vascular
- Nursing symposium
- Other

Special topics

- Craniofacial Surgery (Course)
- Hindbrain Hernia & Syringomyelia (Course)
- Publishing in Peds Neurosurgery
- History of the ISPN
- Evidence Based Pediatric Neurosurgery

Abstracts to be presented (final)

	2018	2019
Total:	477	463
• Platform Presentations	93	80
• Flash Presentations	127	144
• Poster Presentations	242	221
• Nursing Presentations	14	18

Some matters for discussion

- How to find a balance between globalization of scientific contributions (i.e. abstracts from LMICs) and quality of the scientific program;
- The risk of lowering the standards of abstract acceptance to increase the number of attendees in order to cover expensive budgets;
- The opportunity to establish a Scientific Subcommittee/Advisory Board;
- Definition of the President's Guest profile and process of recruitment;



WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Martina Messing-Jünger, Germany/ Meng Fai Kuo, Taiwan (Co-Chair)

There are 3 different supporting programs offered by the ISPN and now listed on our website with online application tools.

- Meeting scholarship
- Travel scholarship
- Education grant

For the **meeting scholarship** we had a total of 38 applications, which is quite a high number. 9 of them were female. These were the countries of origin:

India	7
Egypt	5
Indonesia	4
Bangladesh	2
Tunesia	2
Russia	2
Argentina	2
Senegal	2
Philippines	2
Malaysia	2
Pakistan	2
Brazil	1
Guinea	1
Tanzania	1
Algeria	1
Cameroon	1
Ethiopia	1
Nepal	1

We selected the awardees according to the following criteria

- High relevance: age, recent grants
- Second relevance: not being neurosurgeon, no clear income statement, questionable interest in pediatric neurosurgery, high income.

14 candidates remained eligible, 2 of them had a relatively higher income of monthly 1000€ and 2 a questionable interest in pediatric neurosurgery after careful review.

The remaining 10 candidates were finally selected.

Regarding the visiting **scholarship**, there is still a problem related to the timeline. Applicants want to be granted during a stay abroad or without having a defined visiting project. It is planned to communicate the requirements during the general assembly.



ETHICS AND MORALS COMMITTEE

Wan Tew Seow, Singapore

There are two areas of recommendation that we would like to make in this report:

1. ISPN's Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms and the Review Process
2. A Proposed Code of Ethics for the ISPN

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms and the Review Process

As per current practice, the ISPN's Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms is sent to all EB members for their signed disclosure. If the EB member has any commercial affiliation, financial involvement (e.g., employment, equity interest, honoraria, stock ownership, stock options, grants, patents received or pending), or relationship with any organization or entity relevant to his/her position in the ISPN Executive Board, he/she indicates the category of interest in the area provided in the form or as part of an attachment. The Disclosure form (with attachments, if any) is then returned to the Association Manager.

Currently, there is no documented process as to who (aside from the Association Manager) should review these declarations, if any is declared. It is important that any declarations be reviewed by appointed members of the EB so that any areas of potential conflicts may be escalated to the Executive Board, who can provide recommendations for the resolution or management of such issues.

As such, the Committee recommends that when the Association Manager receives any positively declared Conflict of Interest Declaration Forms, they are sent to the President, the Past President (who is also Chair of the Nominating Committee) and the Morals and Ethics Committee Chair for their review and recommendation on how to deal with the area of conflict of interest.

2. Proposed Code of Ethics for the ISPN

As was discussed at last year's EB meeting, there was a proposal that the ISPN comes up with a Code of Ethics for its members.

This suggestion arose as a result of then reports in the media regarding the sexual abuse of children by religious personnel and by sport coaches - professionals who are entrusted with the welfare of children under their care. Similarly, as pediatric neurosurgeons looking children, and professionals entrusted with the care of these children, aside from preventing and condemning such abuses, we should commit to not perpetrating such acts ourselves. Such a Code will further strengthen the confidence of parents and carers who entrusted their children to us.

A draft Code is attached. It is not meant to be exhaustive as all of us already subscribe to our own existing national Ethical codes or guidelines.



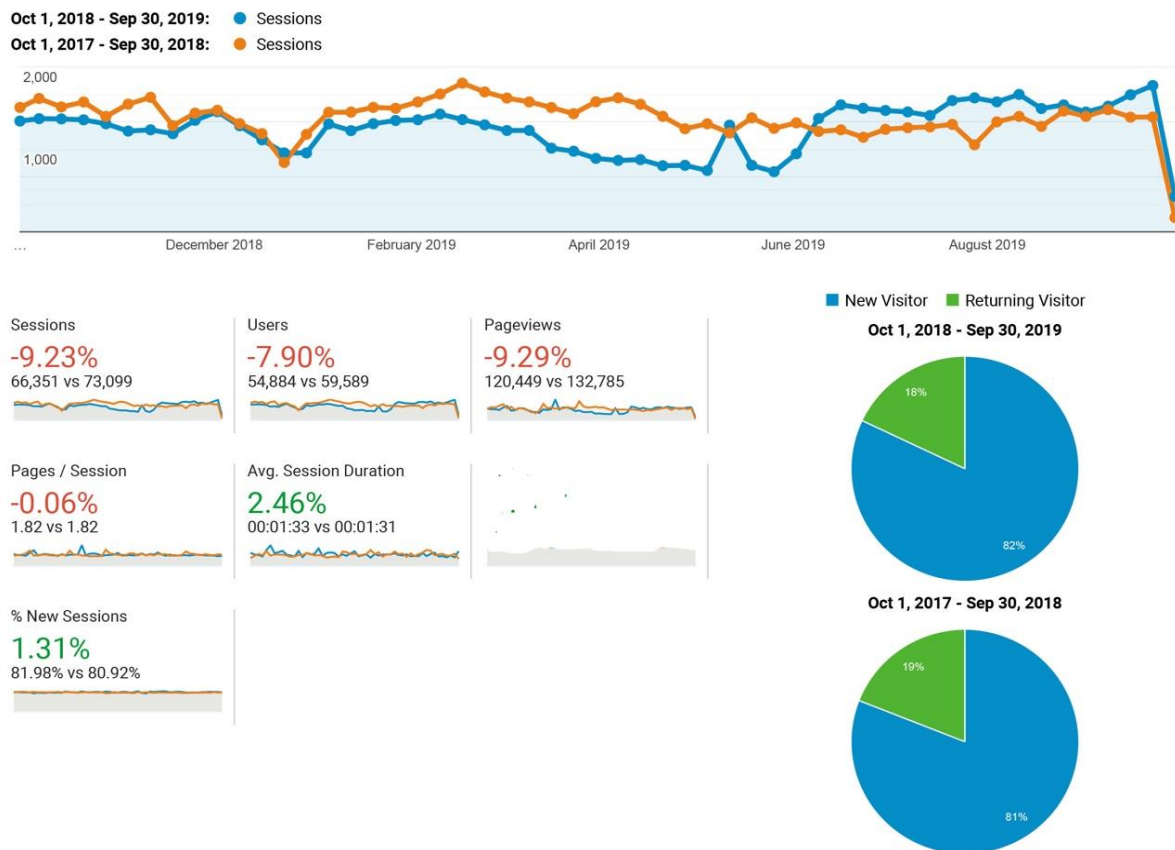
THE ISPN GUIDE TO PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

Rick Abbott, USA

Overview:

At present The Guide has 62 chapters totalling to 1144 published pages with 3 chapters (77 pages) added this year.

Site Utilization for previous 12 months verse previous year:



What's new:

- New Chapters
 - Cervical Spine Trauma in Children
 - Thoracolumbar Spine Trauma in Children
 - Moyamoya Disease in Children
- Editor Author Pages
- Editorial Board Model
- Increasing Utilization of The Guide
 - Google translation
 - Email Mailing list



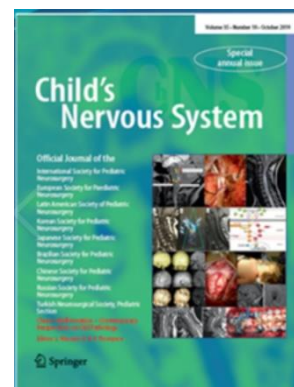
CNS EDITOR

Concezio Di Rocco, Italy

During the last year the Affiliation Agreement of the journal with the ISPN has been extended to the years 2020-2024 and the Editor has been confirmed for the same period.

There was also the renewal of the affiliation for the Latin American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery and the Korean Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery.

Currently, besides the ISPN, CNS is the official journal of **2 continental** and **6 national** pediatric neurosurgical societies.



Two sections "Classics in Pediatric Neurosurgery" and "Reviews" have been removed and a new section "Spotlight on Global Pediatric Neurosurgery" (Guest Editor: W. Harkness) introduced.

The 2019 Annual Issue has been dedicated to "Chiari Type I Malformation" (Guest Editors: L. Massimi and D. Thompson)

The project to publish Focus sessions of specific fields of interest, which was discussed during the 2018 Editorial Meeting following the great attention received by the Focus session on Fetal Neurosurgery (Guest Editor: G. Zuccaro), has been implemented with the publication of the Focus session on "Cranioplasty in children" (Guest Editor: P. Frassanito) in the September 2019 issue and the completion of further Focus Sessions, namely "Pediatric Endoscopic Endonasal Skull Base Surgery – Where Do We Stand and Where are We Going?" (Guest Editor: W. Azab), "ICP based decision making in paediatric neurosurgery practice (Guest Editors: M. Schuhmann and L. Padayachi)", "Introduction to cerebellar mutism" (Guest Editors: G. Grenbaek, R. Keating, J. Wisoff, M. Juhler). Further Focus sessions are in preparation: - on Fetal ventriculomegaly (Guest Editor: S. Duru) - on Spasticity (Guest Editor: N. Morota), - On Proteomics of brain tumors (Guest Editors: C. Desiderio and G. Tamburrini)

The IF 2018 is increased to 1.327 and the 5yrs to IF 1.347.

The number of Downloads has reached in 2018 344, 096. The Overall Authors Satisfaction Index was 95%;

Seven hundred sixty-six articles were discussed in the social platforms

The 2018 submissions were 722 (6% increase compared to 2017) of which 357 were accepted for publication. The geographic representation showed 37% of published papers coming from Europe, 34 from North America, 18% from Asia, 8% from Latin America, 1.6% from Middle East, 1.6% from Africa.

Top-contributing countries were Usa (76), United Kingdom (37), India (36), Turkey (31), Brazil (25), Italy (25), Germany (24), China (23), Japan (17), Canada (14).

Top-contributing papers for citations and IF were USA (200), China (54), UK (51), Germany (50), Italy (48), Canada (46), Brazil (28), India (25).

In order to increase the visibility of its journals, CNS included, Springer has reached an agreement to publish Open Access papers at no cost for the authors from selected European



institutions (from UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Germany) and is negotiating with USA and Japan for a similar agreement.

In summary, the journal is in good health, covering a large number of countries and all the geographic areas. The current trend is: more submissions, more papers published, more downloads. The citation index, however, should be still increased. Considering the limited number of pediatric neurosurgeons such a goal could be achieved only by increasing the quality of the published articles to attract the attention of the general neurosurgeon and basic scientists too. In such a direction a full engagement of the members of the Editorial Board is necessary.

Finally, I would stress the contribution and thank the reviewers of CNS that continue to dedicate a significant part of their time to the journal by evaluating an increasing number of submission. In this year we are registering a 38% increase until now. Obviously, without their cooperation the journal could not thrive.

