



## IBRO Governing Council Meeting DRAFT

**November 13, 2010**

**4.00 pm to 6.00 pm**

**San Diego Marriott and Marina Hotel, San Diego, CA**

*Chair:* Carlos Belmonte

*In attendance:* Pierre Magistretti, Steve Redman, Quentin Pitman, Marcus Baldo, Verity Brown, Willie Daniels, Carolina Escobar, Bernardino Ghetti, Diego Golombek, Illana Gozes, Sten Grillner, John Hildebrand, Sigrun Korsching, Oleg Krishtal, Juan Lerma, Musa Mabandla, João Malva, Matej Markota, Abdul Mohammed, Micaela Morelli, André Nieoullon, Hitoshi Okamoto, Ryszard Przewlocki, Gregory Quirk, Ramon Romero, Hee-Sup Shin, Beáta Sperlágh, Piergiorgio Strata, Fernando Torrealba, Tadaharu Tsumoto, Osvaldo Uchitel, Ante Padjen, Stephanie de La Rochefoucauld, Robynn Rockstad-Rex

### AGENDA

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#### 1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes, Chicago meeting 2010

The minutes were approved.

#### 3. Opening Remarks from the President

Carlos Belmonte expressed thanks for the confidence placed in him by the IBRO Governing Council with his re-election as IBRO President. He then touched on some new initiatives:

- a. **Inter-Regional Activities Committee.** While several of IBRO's regional committees have already been working together to organize inter-regional schools, there is a movement to formalize and centralize these activities under the management of a new IBRO Committee, called the Inter-Regional Activities Committee. This new initiative will aim to promote inter-regional activities from IBRO Central – with the schools activity being most important – in order to bring brilliant students together to receive training at a regional school so that they can interact at a global level and work collaboratively in the future.

- b. **IBRO World Congress.** Since IBRO was formed 50 years ago, a number of other international congresses focusing on neuroscience have come into being. An idea has been put forth to combine future IBRO World Congresses with regional conferences, and to move from one region to another each time. This concept will be further explored.

Dr. Belmonte closed his remarks by thanking IBRO Treasurer Steve Redman, who served two terms in this office during some very difficult economic times, with great skill. As a result, IBRO has ended up in better financial shape than before the economic crisis began. Dr. Belmonte encouraged all to think in the direction of co-financing IBRO activities in association with other organizations, collaborating as much as possible to provide more funds for activities for national and regional organizations.

#### 4. Report of the Secretary General

Pierre Magistretti, who takes over from Marina Bentivoglio as the Secretary-General of IBRO, spoke about three major directions in which IBRO has been moving and also updated the IBRO Governing Council on other matters.

##### a. **Inter-regional activities**

- i. ***Inter-regional Committee:*** While many activities have been running very efficiently within the regions, Dr. Magistretti said the next step is to see what IBRO can do to increase interactions between various regions and, in particular, the Schools Programme. An Inter-Regional Committee will be formed with the help of IBRO Central to organize the schools and provide logistics, and to continue to develop the network of IBRO Alumni, which currently number more than 4000. The chair of this new Committee has been identified: Monica di Luca, the former chair of WERC, who has also been active in FENS. In addition to support from IBRO Central, it is hoped that additional funds for inter-regional activities could be found from within the IBRO regions and also from outside sources.

Dr. Magistretti credited Susan Sara for doing a very good job in organizing Alumni symposia with those IBRO Alumni who have now achieved some sort of seniority; they are a testimony to what IBRO can do for young neuroscientists in helping them build a career, and then they can certainly serve as role models to others.

- ii. ***Young Scientists Visiting Programme.*** A second level of interaction has emerged from the organizers of the Florence World Congress – that is, to have a Young Scientists Visiting Programme around major neuroscience meetings to spend up to a month at a lab.
- iii. ***Link with Kemali Foundation:*** The philosophy of this school, held every other year, is to bring together students in order to live and work together over two weeks, which may result in future collaborations. Last year the School in Naples was chaired by Juan Lerma, and in 2011 it will be organized by John Hildebrand.

- iv. **Middle East Chapter of IBRO:** The IBRO Asia Pacific region is very large geographically and culturally. A small brainstorming meeting was held in Beirut, Lebanon, with neuroscientists from the region to see what IBRO could do to mobilize activities in this under-represented area. This resulted in the decision to organize the First Middle East Neuroscience Conference (including speakers originally from the Middle East as well as those active in the region) and a school, to be held in Al Ain, in the United Arab Emirates, in February 2011. A chapter comprising Middle East neuroscientists – or Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) – may be formed to facilitate future capacity-building activities in the region.
- b. **Future IBRO World Congresses.** The idea put forth to associate the IBRO World Congress with a regional congress every three years, maintaining a geographic rotation to avoid having the same region hosting a meeting twice in a row, will be explored in the coming months.
- c. **Global advocacy initiative.** Dr. Magistretti started his term in office with the idea that it would be worthwhile joining forces of different organizations for advocacy of public education and being a reference for issues for local governments or independent organizations. Eventually this plan will most likely happen in cooperation with SfN, FENS and others.
- d. **New Member.** Dr. Magistretti welcomed IBRO's newest member, the Federation of Neuroscience Societies of Latin America and the Caribbean (FALAN).
- e. **IBRO Schools.** IBRO held 26 schools this year, representing many parts of the globe. With the goal of doing as much as possible with as few people as possible, thanks to our dedicated volunteers and technology, the Schools Programme has been growing and the IBRO Alumni increasing. Since 2006, the application process has been online. A Facebook page was created in January 2010 as a means for the IBRO community to interface and be quickly informed of IBRO news, events and funding deadlines. Already the number of users has surpassed 1500.

A formal plan outlining the three different types of schools is in the works: the first-level school is for young graduate students with local teachers to motivate them in careers in neuroscience; the second-level is the intermediate level for specialized schools with specific subjects with international staff, more focused on post-docs and others interested in particular issue, and lasting 10 days to two weeks; and the third level, Excellence Schools, would bring in senior students coming out of system to provide them with more sophisticated training lasting three weeks. In addition, the Inter-regional Schools will take students coming from two or more regions.

- f. **The 8<sup>th</sup> IBRO World Congress in Florence.** The planning is moving along very well, and there will be an outstanding program in terms of speakers and symposia, including a Presidential Lecture given by Albert Aguayo with a historical overview of IBRO, sponsored by EDAB. A special ceremony will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IBRO and will recognize former presidents, secretaries-general, and treasurers. In addition, there will also be a symposium

highlighting the history of IBRO from the perspective of each IBRO region, as well as an IBRO Alumni symposium.

- g. **New Treasurer:** The IBRO Governing Council has elected Quentin Pittman, from Calgary, Canada, who takes over from Steve Redman.

**h. Questions:**

- i. Sten Grillner asked how much the Kemali Foundation facility in Naples (Italy), offered by the Foundation, is used by IBRO. Answer: The plan is to establish this facility as a permanent site for the Mediterranean inter-regional school every two years and to use it as an administrative office for all inter-regional initiatives there. As the organization for these activities will be quite complicated, a part-time person will be hired, taking advantage of the facilities at the Kemali Foundation apartment. The Governing Council will receive formal proposal.
- ii. Tadaharu Tsumoto asked about Global Initiatives. Answer: The idea is to have a group of recognized organizations in the field of neuroscience preparing and working together for public understanding initiatives and also creating documents and statements that can be provided when necessary at the local level. Meetings are taking place at SfN to further develop processes and plans. “Animals in research” is one example, and another is emphasizing the importance of neuroscience research in general. IBRO’s role would be to put together initiatives from different societies so that all work in concert.
- iii. Oleg Krishtal asked about DANA publishing a digest of global news in “Brain in the News.” Answer: This is worthwhile to think about, with perhaps something else more global, such as a round-up of worldwide news on the Web, with a committee or editor making decisions on the topics and stories.

**5. Report of the Treasurer**

Steve Redman began his report by saying that he is continually amazed at how far IBRO spreads out to all corners of the world, and this is thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who work on IBRO’s behalf. Dr. Redman then presented reports on past and present annual spending, the current financial situation, and a proposed 2011 budget. The Governing Council approved the 2011 budget.

**6. Reports from the Regions**

The Chairs of the Regional Committees made presentations on activities organized over the past year.

**7. Report of IBRO General Committees**

- a. **Publications Committee.** Piergiorgio Strata reported on the state of the journal. Submissions are up. Time to first decision is dropping. The impact factor and ranking has decreased, due to competition from new open access journals. Satisfaction and profits are up. Carlos Belmonte praised the efforts of Dr. Strata and the Publications Committee, who have been taking very good care of our journal, a source of both income and prestige for IBRO.
- b. **Schools Committee.** IBRO Schools are now mainly in hands of regional committees, which has rendered the structure of centralized schools committee not integral any longer. Therefore, the IBRO Schools Committee will be dismantled.
- c. **Animals in Research Committee.** This committee will now take on a broader scope and will cover all ethical issues in brain research. It was mentioned that Sharon Juliano has made a success of an issue that was not well-represented several years ago, and her committee is working extremely well and having more and more impact in world neuroscience.
- d. **Women in World Neuroscience Committee.** Chair Judy Illes has resigned due to other commitments and a new chair will be sought. The President praised her dedication and great success in expanding the activities of this Committee
- e. **Public Education Committee.** Chair Elspeth McLaughlin has retired and the Committee is in process of electing new chairperson. Professor Belmonte thanked her for her efforts and dedication to IBRO.
- f. **IBRO Alumni.** A special symposium, which took place Sunday, November 14, highlighted three IBRO Alumni who have benefitted from IBRO educational programs and funding and are giving back by organizing and teaching IBRO Schools. The Symposium was followed by a party for IBRO guests and Alumni.

## 8. Other matters

- a. **Regional structure alternatives.** An ad-hoc committee will be created to make recommendations to the IBRO Executive Committee and Governing Council for the revised regional structure. Possibilities include combining WERC and CEERC, and re-allocating or dividing the APRC region (to create a MENA region).

## 9. Next meeting

Florence, Italy: July 2011 (*Date and time to be announced*)