

Neurotoxic News

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The Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology
of the International Commission on Occupational Health

Chairman editorial

Dear colleagues of the SCNP,

The 29th ICOH Congress will take place in Cape Town, SA from Sunday March 22 to Friday 27, 2009. We are now in the final steps for the organization and we are receiving updates very frequently. Please keep checking the conference website www.icoh2009.co.za for the last-minute changes. The program of interest for our SC is now including 5 major appointments:

- Wednesday 18 to Saturday 21, at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town: *"Pre-conference workshop: Detection of neurotoxicity in occupational and environmental health"* – organized in collaboration with the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit of the University of Cape Town
- Monday 23, 15:45, Room 1.04.01: T50 oral session *"Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology"* with free presentation
- Tuesday 24, 11:15, Room 1.6.2 + 1.6.3: S52 Special session *"New Challenges of Neurotoxic Agents: Metals"* – organized in collaboration with SC on Toxicology of Metals

- Tuesday 24, 13:45, Room 1.6.1 S45 Special session *"Neurotoxicity by Solvents: Chronic Toxic Encephalopathy"*
- Tuesday 24, 17:15, Room 1.6.1 Business Meeting of the SC on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology
- Thursday 26, 11:15, Room 2.6.1 S2 Special session *"Acute and Chronic Neurotoxicity after Pesticide Exposure"* – organized in collaboration with SC on Rural Health

I am very happy about this final outcome and wish to thank all the colleagues of this Scientific Committee, of the SC on the Toxicology of Metals, the SC on Rural Health and the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit of the University of Cape Town, who collaborated in the organization of these events.

The world conference looks particularly stimulating, with interesting topics and table discussions on a large variety of topics. The central nervous system is involved in many of these aspects, not only in those that have been strictly organized by our SC.

We will have many opportunities to discuss interesting scientific collaboration, and I look forward to meeting you in Cape Town !

Yours,
Roberto Lucchini.

News from the secretary

Michael Aschner (USA)
William Boyes (USA)
Abby Li
Jie Liu (China)

Dear SC members!

The ICOH congress is coming close. Our SC proposed 2 oral sessions and 4 special sessions. Finally, SCNP has one oral session (T50) and 3 special sessions (S45, S52, S2). T49 merged into T50. S72 under the title of 'Neurotoxicity by chemicals in the old and new generations' was cancelled and merged into S50 of 'New challenges of neurotoxic agents: metals'.

The 10th International Symposium on NBME was successfully held in San Jose, Costa Rica in collaboration with EPICOH (SC of Epidemiology in Occupational Health). The 11th International Symposium on NBME will be held in Shangri-la Golden Flower Hotel, Xian from May 22 to 27 in 2011. It will also be held jointly with the 13th INA (International Neurotoxicology Association).

The joint meeting between SCNP and INA will keep their tradition and cultures in organizing sessions. However, Keynote and Special lecture such as the Hänninen lecture of SCNP and the Hooisma lecture of INA will be held together for the benefit of the participants. Please mark your calendar.

Tentative organizing members are as follows. Please let us know if anyone wishes to join the committee.

International Organization Committee:

Chairman

Wei Zheng (USA)

Vice Chairman

Julian (Jingyuan) Chen (China)

Roberto Lucchini (SCNP),

Donald Fox (INA)

Members

SCNP

Yuxin Zheng (China)

Seong-kyu Kang (Korea)

Kazuhito Yokoyama(Japan)

INA

Program Committee:

INA

Michael Aschner, William Boyes, Donald Fox,
Pam Lein, Sandra Allen, Martin Philbert,

SCNP

Seong-Kyu Kang, Roberto Lucchini, Christoph
van Thriel, Anders Iregren, Ineke Wesseling,
Kent Anger, Gaku Ichihara

China

Julian Chen, Yuxin Zheng, Rhongzu Lu, Jie Liu

In the mid of February, I sent an email about the election for the Chair and the Secretary of SCNP in the next term (2009-2012). Any ICOH member in good standing can be a candidate and has a right to vote. The officers can serve only two terms. Roberto and I have served for one term and are available to continue for the next triennium. Thus, any active member can be nominated including Roberto and I. However, I may not be able to serve as the Secretary because I am currently running in the ICOH board election. If I am elected as a board member of ICOH, I won't be able to serve as the Secretary of SC by ICOH Bye-law, that is attached in this issue of the bulletin. Both positions cannot be served simultaneously. I will take the nomination by the March 6. Please email me candidates for the Chair and the Secretary. We will be very happy if someone actively nominates her/himself.

My best regards

Seong-Kyu Kang

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Guidelines for Scientific Committees Final Draft December 22, 2008

ICOH members are encouraged to seek membership in ICOH Scientific Committees corresponding to their special areas of interest. These guidelines are based on ICOH Constitution and Bye-laws. They state the principles and practices for setting up and management of Scientific Committees. Relevant sections of the Constitution and the Bye-Laws are appended to this document.

Art 1 General Qualifications of Membership on Scientific Committees

ICOH members in good standing are invited to seek membership in a minimum of one and a maximum of three Scientific Committees. The selection of a Scientific Committee should reflect the member's professional interests and competencies. Members should have time and capability to participate in the activities of the Scientific Committee. ICOH seeks balanced international participation.

Art 2 Appointment of Officers of the Scientific Committee

As stated in the Bye-Law 11 Section 4: "Each Scientific Committee shall establish rules for its management. In addition to what is stated in the Constitution and Bye-Laws, the rules should define the scope of the Committee, its mode of action, whether it will have other officers than the Chairperson and the Secretary, the mechanism by which new Chairperson and Secretaries are proposed to the President, the procedure for deciding future conference venues, the mechanism for changing the rules, and other administrative matters." (See Appendix 2 for relevant Bye-Laws.)

So according to this Bye-Law, the management of the SC has been left to the regulation of each SC. Each SC can decide any question concerning the management.

However, the Secretary might be in charge of the following competencies:

- (a) have charge of the general correspondence;
- (b) prepare for the election of the Officers;
- (c) prepare the agenda of the SC;
- (d) prepare the minutes of the meetings;
- (e) collect fundraising, extra fees and other financial contributions;
- (f) deposit all monies in the name and to the credit of the Scientific Committee
- (g) regulate expenditure and make payments under the supervision of the President.
- (h) submit a budget for the next triennium to the SC's Members before the end of the current triennium.

ICOH members who intend to be candidates for Chairperson of a Scientific Committee must complete and transmit privately to the Secretary General the Declaration of Interest Form at the time of announcing candidacy. Each candidacy should be supported by at least three members in good standing of the Scientific Committee, a written agreement of the nominee that he or she is willing to serve if elected, and a curriculum vitae of no more than 150 words. The candidates must be eligible under Bye-law 11 and art.2 of these Guidelines.

If there is more than one nominee for a position, the election takes place by secret ballot, organized by the officers of the Scientific Committee. The election may take place at a business meeting of the Scientific Committee. Alternatively, the Secretary of the Scientific Committee sends the names and accompanying public materials of the candidates for the position of Chairperson by email to the Scientific Committee members in good standing at least six months before the first day of ICOH International Congress.

Votes shall be counted by three Scrutinisers appointed by the Chairperson. The candidates and voting members must be confirmed by the ICOH Vice President as being in good standing. The Chairperson transmits a report of the voting procedure, the list of voting members, and the results to the ICOH Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees, who transmits results to the ICOH President for appointment and acceptance. The candidate with the most votes is proposed by the ICOH Vice President to the ICOH President for appointment as Chairperson of the SC. The proposed Chairperson chooses the Secretary of the SC, who is willing to hold the position and is a member in good standing. The proposed Secretary must submit privately to the Secretary General a Declaration of Interest, prior to being proposed to the President.

If in agreement with the proposal, the ICOH President, in conformance with article 5, section 3 and art.7, sect. 3 of the Constitution and sect.1 and 2 of Bye-law11, appoints the Chairperson and accepts the Secretary presented for a three year period between two International Congresses. The same process may reappoint Chairperson and Secretary for no

more than one additional three-year term. If no candidates have been nominated to the position of Chairperson and Secretary of a Scientific Committee, or if special reasons so require, the ICOH President can appoint a Chairperson and a Secretary. Some Scientific Committees elect the Chairperson and Secretary at a Scientific Meeting that is asynchronous with the ICOH triennia. The ICOH President can approve the asynchronous three year term of the Chairperson and Secretary of these Scientific Committees.

Balanced international distribution of Chairpersons is an important goal for ICOH. Normally, the Officers of Scientific Committees shall not be eligible to serve as ICOH Officers, ICOH Board Members or National Secretaries at the same time.

Art 3 Criteria for Membership on a Scientific Committee

There are no specific criteria for membership on Scientific Committee beyond the qualifications in art.1 above. Scientific Committees are encouraged to pursue academic excellence as well as balanced international participation.

Art 4 Creation of an Executive Committee

Scientific Committees may create an Executive Committee, including the Chairperson, Secretary, other Officers, and those members most involved in the activities of the Scientific Committee. The members of the group are appointed by the Chairperson, usually following election by the members at a business meeting or by email, as described in sect. 5 of Bye-Law 11. The Executive Committee contributes to management of the Scientific Committee.

Art 5 Creation of Sub-Committees

Scientific Committees may form Sub-Committees to deal with various scientific topics, conferences, publications, etc.

Art 6 Corresponding Fellows

Two Corresponding Fellows may be appointed by the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, following approval by ICOH President. The Fellows receive all the benefits of ICOH membership for a triennium between two International ICOH Congresses without paying dues. Criteria for appointment of Corresponding Fellows are financial need and the importance of their scientific contributions to the Scientific Committee.

Art 7 Meetings and Symposia

Scientific Committees are encouraged to hold scientific symposia or conferences at least once between International Congresses with an open invitation to scientists and other interested persons. A minimum of two Scientific Committee business meetings per triennium are encouraged, to which all members are invited: one meeting in conjunction with the ICOH Triennial International Congress, and one between the International Congresses. Scientific Committees are encouraged to collaborate with other Scientific Committees, with National Secretaries and national organisations in the host country, and with WHO, ILO and other professional organizations, in organizing joint meetings and symposia. All meetings should be clearly announced as ICOH activities.

For conferences organised on behalf of ICOH, an organising committee may be appointed. Members should be respected professionals perceived as neutral, and the organising committee's leader should be an ICOH member in good standing. The Scientific Committee officers and the organising committee are responsible for content, quality, balance and scientific integrity.

ICOH Scientific Committees can jointly organise activities with scientific organisations, that are impartial and independent. Approval of the use of the ICOH name must be requested to the Secretary General.

Scientific Committees should promote ICOH and implement ICOH programmes.

Guidelines for the Organisation of ICOH triennial Congresses have been developed and can be found in the Core Documents section of the ICOH website at http://www.icohweb.org/core_docs.asp. These guidelines may be helpful to Scientific Committees in their organisation of conferences.

Art 8 Publications and Websites

Scientific Committees are encouraged to develop scientific reports, books, and articles for international scientific journals. At least one scientific output is expected during the triennium.

Documents intended to be ICOH publications, such as 'ICOH Position Paper', 'ICOH Guideline', 'ICOH Statement', or 'ICOH Report', must be drawn up in compliance with the ICOH Constitution and Bye-Laws, the ICOH Code of Ethics, the Good Association Practice, and the General Ethical Principle. Authors shall fill in the Declaration of Interests Form. The proposal of a scientific publication intended to be an ICOH document may be put forward by one or more Chairs of a Scientific Committee. All proposals shall be examined and approved by ICOH President. The ICOH President appoints one Coordinator and a Publishing Committee in charge of preparing a draft for publication. The draft is approved by the Publishing Committee prior to review by independent experts in the field. The document is subjected to assessment by Working Group on Transparency and Ethics. The document is approved by the Board. Each Scientific Committee is encouraged to develop a website, using the ICOH template as a tool for communication with scientists in the field of interest. Scientific Committee Officers have reporting requirements, including the work plan of the Scientific Committee, midterm and final triennial reports and business meeting reports, for which the forms and timelines are maintained in the Scientific Committee Virtual Office on the ICOH website.

Art 9 Sponsorship and Finances

External financial sponsorship may be invited to improve quality and extension of ICOH activities, and to ensure as wide an audience as possible. Terms, conditions, and purposes of such support must be in accordance with ICOH's goals, the ICOH Code of Ethics and General Ethical Principles and should be documented by a signed agreement

between sponsor and organisers. Conditions for providing financial support shall not include specification by the funder of speakers, guests or other matters relative to the ICOH activity. If large support is obtained from one major stakeholder, then a balance for other stakeholders must be achieved through support or participation.

Exhibitions or advertisement can be considered as a useful way of obtaining external support, while allowing the sponsor to communicate with audience in accordance with ICOH activities' purpose. A sponsor may offer receptions and other modest social events if there is no interference with scientific or educational programmes.

Conference speakers and participants should be informed of the sponsorship through printed or electronic announcements. Organisers should be prepared to report to ICOH Officers and the Scientific Committee the budgetary details.

Scientific Committees may wish to be listed as sponsors of various conferences, symposia, publications and other public announcements. All sponsorships must be approved by the ICOH President.

Sections 9, 10 and 11 of Bye-law 11 provide guidance regarding the finances of the Scientific Committees and the meetings which they organize. The finances of the organisation and conduct of the meetings organized by the Scientific Committee are the responsibility of the organizers of the meeting. Non-ICOH members may pay a registration fee higher than the members' fee. The organizers shall transfer the difference to the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee or to the designated representative within two months of the end of the meeting. Such monies may either be used by the Scientific Committee or paid to the account of ICOH according to prior agreement with the Secretary General.

On request of the Chairperson of a Scientific Committee, the Secretary-General may be authorised by the President to assist financially a Scientific Committee in the organisation of a meeting.

The Scientific Committees may receive up to two thirds of the fees paid by sustaining members subscribing especially to promote activity in the field covered by the Scientific Committee. A Scientific Committee may be required by agreement to remit to ICOH a proportion of any income deriving from its activities.

Art 10 Conflict of interest and transparency

Scientific Committees must remain scientifically objective. Activities must be in compliance with the ICOH Code of Ethics, the Good Association Practice, and the General Ethical Principle. If a conflict of interest occurs with meetings, sponsorships, publications, financial support, the ICOH Officers will require full disclosure of the conflict and have the authority to properly intervene. The ICOH President will take the necessary action after consultation with the Committee of Ethics.

Art 11 Setting up new ICOH Scientific Committee

ICOH members in good standing who share a field of scientific interest may establish a Working Group to develop a proposal for the new Scientific Committee. The members should submit to ICOH President and ICOH Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees the proposal, including a list of members and the scope of activities. At the next Midterm or Triennial Board Meeting, the ICOH Board will review the proposal to form the new Scientific Committee. The ICOH President, in consultation with the Vice President in charge of the Scientific Committees, appoints the Chairperson and approves the Secretary.

Scientific Committees that share scientific interest areas are encouraged to consider merging together into a single Scientific Committee.

Art 12 Links with the Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees and the Secretary General

Chairpersons and Secretaries of Scientific Committees shall stay in close cooperation with ICOH Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees. During each Triennium, the Scientific Committee Chairpersons and Secretaries must send to the ICOH Vice President a set of reports, including the work plan of the Scientific Committee, mid-term and final reports of activities, business meeting reports, and proposals for the scientific sessions of the ICOH Congresses. Officers of Scientific Committees should build up the membership list and transmit it to the Vice President and the Secretary General.

The ICOH Vice President in charge of Scientific Committees assists the Officers of the Scientific Committees. The Vice President will encourage Officers of Scientific Committees to propose joint meetings and activities with other Scientific Committees. The Vice President reviews election procedures for Chair and Secretary of the Scientific Committees. The ICOH Vice President submits a report describing the Scientific Committee activities to the ICOH Board at the midterm meeting, and to the General Assembly at the International ICOH Congress. The ICOH Vice President serves as Co-Chair of Scientific Program of the ICOH International Congresses and works with the Scientific Committee Officers to organize scientific sessions at the Congresses.

The Chairpersons and Scientific Committee Secretaries shall stay in close collaboration with the ICOH General Secretary and support the ICOH General Secretary in membership campaigns, tracking lost sheep, and communicating members' changes of information. A Declaration of Interests Form must be submitted to the ICOH Secretary General by candidates for positions of Chairperson and Secretary. The rules for sponsorship and for conflict of interest require coordination with the Secretary General. The ICOH Board periodically reviews the activities of the Scientific Committees.

International Meetings

The 29th triennial Congress of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH2009) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 22-27 March, 2009.

The Scientific Program has been posted on the website www.ich2009.co.za



INA 12
12th Biennial Meeting
of the International Neurotoxicology Association
Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurotoxicology
June 7-12, 2009 Sunday-Friday
Ma'ale Hachamisha, Israel
<http://www.neurotoxicology.org/>

The Newsletter



This newsletter is compiled quarterly by Roberto Lucchini (Chair of the SCNPN) lucchini@med.unibs.it and Seong-kyu Kang (secretary of the SCNPN) skk2@unitel.co.kr Contributions by members of the SCNPN are most welcome, preferably as .rtf files via E-mail. Feel free to contact us for any questions or suggestions !