

CNSORG.ORG Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting 1: 12:30-1:45 p.m. and 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. July 19, 2009, Berlin, Germany

1) Attendance

Ranu Jung (Arizona State U., USA), President
Klaus Obermayer, (TU Berlin, Germany), Vice-President Europe
Dieter Jaeger (Emory U., USA), Vice-President
Frances Skinner (Toronto W. Res. Inst., Canada), Treasurer
Frances Chance (UC Irvine, USA)
Avrama Blackwell (George Mason University, USA)
Jean-Marc Fellous (U. of Arizona, USA)
Tim Lewis (UC Davis, USA)
Ingo Bojak (Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre)
Lars Schwabe (U Rostock, Germany)
Erik Fransen (Royal Inst. of Technol, Sweden)

Absent

Sophie Deneve, (ENS, France)
Leslie Kay (U Chicago, USA)
Tay Netoff (U Minnesota, USA)
Patrick Roberts (Oregon Health and Science U)
Jonathan Rubin (U Pittsburgh, USA)
Emilio Salinas (Wake Forest U, USA)
Charles Wilson (UTSA, USA)

Agenda items: (see attached agenda)

2) Introduction. Ranu reminded us that we are a US based non-profit organization.

3) Financial Report (Frances Skinner) See separate document for details (online at cnsorg.org). Stated that we should be aiming to have \$200 K in backup savings. The estimated balance after the Berlin meeting is \$125,869. It was recommended to try generate savings of \$30K or more each year to reach \$200 K. The Berlin meeting itself is a big financial success, and despite increased costs and renegotiations due to the size exceeding estimates a surplus of \$33,000 is expected. Ranu mentioned that about \$200 prepay per meeting attendee is required each year, or \$ 75 K for a 350 person meeting (50 K for 200 people). Later in the board meeting it was also

noted that registration through wiring money costs substantial fees in some cases. It was suggested to add a fixed amount to the registration fee for people wiring in their fee.

4) Web Page (Ranu). Using 'Academic Web Pages' to serve our web presence is deemed a success. The rate is only \$380 per year. The turnaround time for requested updates is about 24 hours. Ranu proposed that each board member look after one section of our web pages. [The section associated with the board members other duties – see below]. Frances noted that we might want a web pages subcommittee. **Ingo volunteered to chair and organize the web activity.** Dieter commented that we should notify Academic Web Pages who is authorized to request changes to our web pages – at this point there are no safety guards.

5) Logo. It was noted that OCNS is much lacking a logo. Two board members promised to submit a design soon, one of who was Udo Ernst.

6) Call for Proposals (Ranu). We like to get meeting sites settled 2 years ahead. The current call letter needs to be reworked for clarity. We most urgently need a US site for 2012. It was suggested that we contact potential local organizers personally. A discussion about Asia as potential meeting site ensued. It was felt that Asia should not be excluded but that it could be quite problematic in terms of attendance.

7) Board Member Responsibilities (Ranu)

The president remarked that it is very important that everyone of the board contribute to the workings of the Organization in a specific way.

8) Construction sites (Ranu and others). We need a common access point to documents, etc. Google Apps was suggested. Ranu also noted that we often lack a copy of outgoing e-mails. A group account from which e-mails are sent could address this. Another option is to cc each mail to a OCNS account. Another problem noted was the lack of backups. **Frances Chance volunteered to look into this.** It was also noted that we would link to CNS training programs better by using a common format. [Right now the Latin American Summer school has big coverage, while Woods Hole and the EU course in Freiburg are not even mentioned]. For future meetings, we would like to mail fliers through a regional distribution system, ie. sending bundles of fliers to local subdistributors. **Klaus volunteered to handle the European distribution of fliers.** Dieter noted that postage to European addresses might be cheaper from US than from Germany. [Note added: US First Class International Letter is \$1.76; a letter within Germany is Euro 0.90, (~\$1.27), a letter within Europe sent from Germany is Euro 1.25 (~\$1.76)].

9) Presentation by Ann Avouris (Springer). Ann announced the release of NeuroNetwork.com, a Springer communications network for science groups. She invited OCNS to participate. Ann also announced a plan to create a Springer encyclopedia of computational neuroscience, which would mostly be sold in electronic version to libraries. The entries would be gathered through an editorial board (tbd). Ann asked OCNS to lend our sponsorship and name to this encyclopedia. In return we could receive a share of royalties, which could be on the order of \$10K per year. We would also advise Springer in launching this encyclopedia. A discussion ensued about how

this encyclopedia would be different from or an additional benefit to Scholarpedia, which is open-source.

10) Reg Online: The layout needs to be improved. **Lars volunteered to take this job over from Ranu.**

11) Election on new Board Members: On the ballot and previously agreeing to serve were: Astrid Prinz, Carmen Canavier, Alex Dimitrov, Brian Mulloney. Astrid and Alex are rotating off the program committee. As postdoc representative Nathan Schultheiss self-identified himself as candidate. **The board voted unanimously in favor of all named candidates to join the board.**

12) All board members are expected to be responsive to e-mails, and/or let the board and president know what their meeting attendance will be. In accordance with OCNS by-laws, Sophie Deneve's term on the board was terminated by unanimous vote because of her absence from the Board meetings.

13) A 6 month transition period is planned to help new board members take over the tasks of old board members.

14) It was voted that exec members (President, Treasurer, VPs) should have 3 year Jan-Dec terms (rather than July-July) to ensure that the July CNS meeting handling can be completed. After that, a 6 month transition period would occur (as for other board members).

Therefore: New exec and board members voted in during July CNS meeting:

- new board members start 3 year term as of July, old board members rotating off would stay on for 6 months (till Dec) to help with transition (especially important now with well-defined duties for all board members)
- new exec members officially start their term in Jan, but “shadow” the exec for 6 months (July – Dec). old exec members stay on for 6 months (Jan-June) to help with transition.

Meeting 2: 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 3:10 – 3:40 p.m. July 20, 2009, Berlin, Germany

1) Attendance

Ranu Jung (Arizona State U., USA), President
Klaus Obermayer, (TU Berlin, Germany), Vice-President Europe
Dieter Jaeger (Emory U., USA), Vice-President
Frances Skinner (Toronto W. Res. Inst., Canada), Treasurer
Frances Chance (UC Irvine, USA)
Avrama Blackwell (George Mason University, USA)
Jean-Marc Fellous (U. of Arizona, USA)
Tim Lewis (UC Davis, USA)
Ingo Bojak (Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre)
Lars Schwabe (U Rostock, Germany)
Erik Fransen (Royal Inst. of Technol, Sweden)
Don Johnson (Rice U, USA), Program Chair

Brian Mulloney (UC Davis, USA)

Alex Dimitrov (Montana State U, USA)
Astrid Prinz (Emory U, USA)
Carmen Canavier (LSU, New Orleans, USA)
Nathan Schultheiss (Emory University, Atlanta, USA), postdoc representative

Dennis Glanzman, NIMH
Yuan Liu, NINDS

James Bower (UTSA, San Antonio, USA)

Absent

Sophie Deneve, (ENS, France)
Leslie Kay (U Chicago, USA)
Tay Netoff (U Minnesota, USA)
Patrick Roberts (Oregon Health and Science U)
Jonathan Rubin (U Pittsburgh, USA)
Emilio Salinas (Wake Forest U, USA)
Charles Wilson (UTSA, USA)

2) Board Member responsibilities and benefits (Ranu). Tasks for each board member were discussed (see list on next page). **A unanimous vote was passed that all board members receive \$200 off the registration fee for future CNS meetings** due to increased responsibilities and as an encouragement to attend.

List of CNS2010 Exec and Board with responsibilities

2009 Executive Committee:

President: Ranu Jung (Arizona State U, USA) (2006-2009)

Vice-President and Secretary: Carmen Canavier (Louisiana State U) (2009-2012) – Sponsorship Co-Chair

Vice-President: Klaus Obermayer (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany) (2008-2011) – Sponsorship Co-Chair

Treasurer: Frances Skinner (Toronto Western Research Institute, Canada) (2007-2010)

Ex officio- Dieter Jaeger (Emory U, USA)

Ex officio- Udo Ernst (U Bremen, USA)

CNS*2010 Program Chair: Don Johnson (Rice U, USA) (2008-2011)

CNS*2010 Publication Chair: Jean-Marc Fellous (University of Arizona) (2009-2012)

2009 Board of Directors:

Avrama Blackwell (George Mason U, USA) (2008-2011) – Awards (Travel, Poster, other)

Ingo Bojak (Radboud U Nijmegen Medical Centre, Netherlands) (2007-2010) – OCNS Web pages (overall)

Frances Chance (U California-Irvine, USA) (2007-2010) – IT support

Alex Dimitrov (Montana State U, USA) (2009-2012) - Workshops

Erik Fransén (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden) (2008-2011) – OCNS web pages- local meeting updates

Brian Mulloney (UC Davis, USA) (2009-2012) - Tutorials

Tay Netoff (U Minnesota, USA) (2008-2011) – Database of Compneuro programs & Communications

Astrid Prinz (Emory University, USA) (2009-2012) - Awards (Travel, Poster, other)

Patrick Roberts (Oregon Health and Science U, USA) (2006, 2008-2010) – Workshops

Jonathan Rubin (U Pittsburgh, USA) (2008-2011)- Database of Compneuro programs & Communications

Emilio Salinas (Wake Forest U, USA) (2007-2010) - IT support

Lars Schwabe (U Rostock, Germany) (2008-2012) – Meeting registration (RegOnline)

Nathan Schultheiss (Boston University, USA) (2009-2012) – Postdoc representative

Charles Wilson (U Texas-San Antonio, USA) (2008-2011) – Local Organizer 2010

3) Sponsorship. **It was decided that the Europe VP (currently Klaus) will try to secure funding for sending EU nationals to CNS meetings to the US.** Jim Bower volunteered to attract additional sponsorship to the 2010 meeting. **He was given the permission to ask for support levels beyond the ones listed by OCNS.** The treasurer (currently Frances Skinner) MUST get a cc of all transactions involving money, including the gathering of sponsorship funds. It was discussed that computer/software companies should be targeted to ask for support. This provides rich hunting grounds in Texas.

4) Program committee report (Don). Out of 416 abstracts submitted to the Berlin meeting 16 were rejected. The confmaster site for submission and review was a mixed blessing. For

instance only 300 addresses can be given for any e-mail. There is no way knowing who is a postdoc among applicants. However, the utility of BMC for publishing abstracts proved to be a less pleasant experience yet. The formatting of abstracts in .rtf was very tedious and error prone. It was agreed that we would check into using the Frontiers series instead. Don requested that the Program committee would work with a publications chair in the Board to share the burden of publishing. **Jean-Marc Fellous volunteered to be the Publications Chair on the board.** He will also be the point person to check into publishing through Frontiers instead of BMC.

5) Update on CNS*2010 in San Antonio (Jim Bower). Jim showed slides depicting the hotel, the venue for the dinner (Texas barn style), and the party (his ranch). The hotel Gunther holds 450 people if needed. The meeting rooms are free for a minimum food order of 25K. AV will be provided by the University for free as well. The total estimated cost is \$74,000. A complete quote from the Gunther hotel is available to the board via Ranu / Frances. Overall, Jim expects the meeting costs to be quite low.

6) Travel Fellowships (Tim Lewis). Stats for Berlin: 14 fellowships from NIH grant for US attendees. 7 from developing countries, 18 from Europe. We need future travel funding for Europeans to come to US meetings. Ranu has secured 3 years of NSF support (50K total) for Frontiers lectures and postdoc travel (but not student travel). Note: OCNS uses the World Bank definition of developing countries.

Meeting 3: 12:00-1:00 p.m. July 21, 2009, Berlin, Germany

1) Attendance

Ranu Jung (Arizona State U., USA), President
Klaus Obermmayer, (TU Berlin, Germany), Vice-President Europe
Dieter Jaeger (Emory U., USA), Vice-President
Frances Skinner (Toronto W. Res. Inst., Canada), Treasurer
Frances Chance (UC Irvine, USA)
Jean-Marc Fellous (U. of Arizona, USA)
Tim Lewis (UC Davis, USA)
Ingo Bojak (Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre)
Lars Schwabe (U Rostock, Germany)
Erik Fransen (Royal Inst. of Technol, Sweden)
Carmen Canavier (LSU, New Orleans, USA)
Nathan Schultheiss (Emory University, Atlanta, USA), postdoc representative

Brian Mulloney (UC Davis, USA)

Absent

Don Johnson (Rice U, USA), Program Chair
Alex Dimitrov (Montana State U, USA)
Astrid Prinz (Emory U, USA)
(program committee was meeting in parallel)

Sophie Deneve, (ENS, France)
Leslie Kay (U Chicago, USA)
Tay Netoff (U Minnesota, USA)
Patrick Roberts (Oregon Health and Science U)
Jonathan Rubin (U Pittsburgh, USA)
Emilio Salinas (Wake Forest U, USA)
Charles Wilson (UTSA, USA)

2) Poster Awards: This year poster awards were sponsored by INNS. It is unclear whether this tradition will continue.

3) Springer NeuroNetwork. **Nathan Schultheiss volunteered into looking how OCNS might participate and to e-mail a proposal to the board for an e-mail vote.**

4) Tutorials (Udo). The tutorials sessions in Berlin were deemed a success. The only snafu was the last minute cancellation by Stephen Schiff to hold his tutorial. **People who signed up**

specifically for his tutorial and received admittance should be reimbursed. This year the tutorials were gathered through solicitation by the local organizer (Udo), who also obtained additional funding. **The tutorial payment option through RegOnline needs some fixing up. Ranu is working with Lars on this and other features.** We also need a better poll of attendance for each tutorial, either through RegOnline, or possible Academic Webpages. Travel awards for tutorial attendance would be desirable – the criteria need to be determined.

5) Postdoc Workshop (Lars). Lars will work with Nathan to create a strong 2010 postdoctoral / career development workshop. The idea of developing podcasts was discussed, as was the possibility of making recordings available. Finding additional funding was also mentioned. Overall, these topics will require coordination between sponsorship reps, webpage reps, and IT rep. as well as the new workshop chair Alex Dimitrov

6) Springer Encyclopedia. The question is whether OCNS should support the plan of Ann Avouris to develop a Springer Comp. Neurosci. encyclopedia. A pro would be added visibility to OCNS and JCNS, as JCNS articles would link keywords into the encyclopedia. Another big pro would be the expected royalties to OCNS. Cons are that this encyclopedia would not be open access, and that it would duplicate some aspects of Scholarpedia. **A vote was taken, and 13 of 13 board members present voted in favor of pursuing OCNS support for a Springer encyclopedia.**

7) CNS 2011 report (Erik Fransen). The meeting rooms will be free, campus, park, and restaurants are close by. The City Hall for the meeting dinner will also be free. So far 2 sponsors are on board, multiple others are lined up as potential supporters. There is lots of sightseeing available.

Meetings adjourned - Ranu suggested that 3 board meetings be pre-scheduled at future CNS conferences. Another option is that a 2 hour meeting occurs prior to the reception on the first day. That way maybe only 1 board meeting is needed during the meeting with a potential backup slot.