

OCNS Board of Directors Meeting
July 15 (9:00am - 4:30pm) and July 17 (12:00pm - 1:30pm), 2017
Antwerp, Belgium
University Building E, Room E201

Present, 07/15: Astrid Prinz, Maurice Chacron, Daniel Wojcik, Pierre Yger (10:40am), Ben Torben-Nielsen (12:05), Ingo Bojak, Leonid Rubchinsky, Jaeseung Jeong, Michele Giugliano, Daniele Marinazzo, Joanna Jedrzejewska-Szmek, Erik De Schutter, Volker Steuber, Hermann Cuntz, Eleni Vasilaki (9:35), Sharon Crook (14:00), Thomas Nowotny(16:15)

Absent, 07/15: Taro Toyozumi, Eric Shea-Brown, Tony Burkitt, Nikki Tam, Victoria Booth

Present, 07/17: Astrid Prinz, Maurice Chacron, Daniel Wojcik, Pierre Yger, Ben Torben-Nielsen, Ingo Bojak, Leonid Rubchinsky, Jaeseung Jeong, Michele Giugliano, Daniele Marinazzo, Joanna Jedrzejewska-Szmek, Erik De Schutter, Volker Steuber, Hermann Cuntz, Eleni Vasilaki, Sharon Crook, Thomas Nowotny, Taro Toyozumi, Nikki Tam

Absent, 07/17: Eric Shea-Brown, Tony Burkitt, Victoria Booth

Approvals

1a. Approval of the agenda, addition of points (Astrid)

We will shift financial matters to after lunch. The agenda was unanimously approved.

1b. Approval of 2016 Board Meeting minutes (Astrid)

Last year's minutes were unanimously approved.

Board Composition, Duties, and Committees

2a. Board composition 2017: (blue = ex officio, black = elected)

- Astrid (President)
- Sharon (Vice-President and Secretary, Communications, Program Book)
- Erik (Past President)
- Volker (Treasurer)
- Victoria (Ex-Treasurer)
- Ingo (Publications Chair)
- Tony (Program Committee Chair)
- Maurice (Member Approval)
- Hermann (Tutorial Organizer)
- Michele (Sponsorship Chair, also 2017 Local Organizer)
- Joanna (Social Media, Postdoc Workshop)
- Jaeseung (Local Organizer 2016)
- Daniele (Local Organizer 2017)
- Thomas (Program Committee Chair Trainee)
- Leonid (Registration)
- Nicoladie (Membership)
- Ben (Tutorials Organizer)
- Taro (Travel Awards Trainee)
- Eleni (Workshop Coordinator)

- Eric (Local Organizer 2018)
- Daniel (Travel Awards)
- Pierre (Webmaster, Registration)

2b. Directors rotating off after 2017

- Sharon
- Tony
- Jaeseung
- Nicoladie
- Ben
- Daniel

Astrid suggests to offer Sharon to stay for another term as VP, or at least keep with the program book preparation. (Program book will not be offered as print version in the future.) Sharon accepts all which is approved by the Board. Tony will rotate off the Program Committee chair.

2c. Task division within the Board:

We need for 2018: Trainees for several duties (Membership, Tutorials, Workshops, Sponsorship, Website).

2d. Director elections for 2018:

How many directors should be elected for 2018? The OCNS bylaws say the Board should have 10 to 25 members. 15 will continue from 2017. Astrid suggests electing 4 or 5 new ones and that we should discuss whether one be a student/postdoc. Additional rules on director candidates:

- Board voted in 2016 that prior involvement in CNS should be required.
- Board voted in 2016 that no candidates will be accepted that would cause two board members from the same lab.

One of the newly elected members should start shadowing Maurice (Membership) in January. We recommend every Director starts shadowing from the start of their time on the Board. We recommend every Director writes down / keeps updated instructions for duties coming with his/her specific job. The documents will be collected by Astrid and made available to everybody.

We decided to elect four new Directors and for missing jobs approach people and ask them to take ex-officio positions. We decided that we will take the four candidates with the most votes, no matter what rank, with no specifically selected postdoc Director. The rules for selection will be considered and applied by the Nominating Committee (see below).

2e. Executive Committee composition 2018

- Astrid (President)
- Erik (Past President)
- Sharon (Vice-President)
- Thomas (PC Chair)
- Volker (Treasurer)
- Victoria (Ex-Treasurer)
- Board representative 1 (2017: Daniel)
- Board representative 2 (2017: Pierre)

Board representatives for 2018 will be selected later.

2f. Nominations Committee

The 2017 Committee consisted of Daniel, Erik, and Sharon. We need to appoint a replacement for Daniel and Sharon (who has taken on additional roles). Erik will continue on the committee. Two new members were elected for 2018: Maurice, Eleni.

Membership

3a. Report on membership (Astrid)

- 185 faculty members (2016 was 172)
- 120 postdoc members (2016 was 118)
- 195 student members (2016 was 304)
- 1420 inactive members (2016 was 1104)

It is suggested that we can organize a membership drive, especially among students, once some of the new incentives are established.

We agree that we would like to strengthen the meeting and organization. In Europe it is difficult to compete with the Bernstein Meeting. We should try to maximize the impact of the Seattle meeting. One idea is to talk to the Bernstein people, first Hermann, then Astrid will talk to them. A few ideas were to decrease membership costs and to email the inactive members to join back, like the SfN does.

There was a discussion of journals, discounts on publication fees, and journal access for members. However, we have an existing relationship with Springer re J. Comp. Neurosci. which might possibly be reconsidered in the near future. We will revisit this topic once the relationship with Springer is re-considered.

There was agreement that OCNS needs to improve impact by encouraging regional meetings by contacted possible regional organizers, and we should explore other new benefits for members. Certainly we can emphasize existing benefits and improve outreach and publicity including:

- We should have facebook / twitter feeds on the OCNS website.
- We need to be more proactive in contacting potential members (Sharon, Joanna, Pierre).
- We should talk to members from Brazil (Antonio Roque) and Chile regarding regional meetings.

3b. Members Meeting (Astrid)

The agenda for the Member Meeting includes:

- Reports from President, Treasurer, PC Chair
- Mascots
- CNS*2018 presentation
- CNS*2019 announcement about call for proposals

3c. Outreach and social media (Sharon, Joanna, Pierre)

Social media presence has improved and we will continue to try to attract further visibility here.

3d. Proposal (by grad student Chase Brown) for local OCNS chapter at OUHSC (in Oklahoma)

We agree to send him an encouraging email to join OCNS, have his colleague students join, and go ahead with their plans. We do not have a formal institution of student chapter organization. If he wants to make this a formal proposal, we would encourage him to come to the next meeting in Seattle and present it in person.

3e. Ways to increase member engagement:

- Use ORCID to keep track of specific people in members database.
- We discussed the website, wondering if we should split content for members away from content for others.
- Another decision is whether to move to a more modern membership technology or to stay with memberclicks. Pierre is willing to inspect alternative options to memberclicks so that everything could be in one place but keep memberclicks functionality in terms of member

management. Ingo points out that there is a problem with abstract submissions as well, which is discussed below, and perhaps both could be switched and integrated. Erik's suggestion (accepted) - Pierre makes a rapid scan of the options available for a replacement of everything. If not found, we stay with memberclicks for another year and deal first with replacing confmaster for meeting organization.

- Another idea to promote engagement is to send out a regular newsletter to members - to start this would occur every 6 months - with a letter from the President, etc. Sharon is willing to organize this effort. At some point, the newsletter should include information about the planned changes to the meeting structure. We could also ask Iranian students and other travel grant recipients that come to this meeting to write something regarding their time at the meeting.

CNS Meetings

4a. Report on CNS*2017 (Michele, Daniele)

Everything seems to be under control. Regarding the banquet tickets, we decided that only the Board Members who paid for their tickets will get them.

4b. Report on CNS*2018 Planning (Astrid)

There are three local organizers - Christof Koch, Adrienne Fairhall, and Eric Shea-Brown - the last one is the representative on the OCNs Board. The Seattle group promises to send an updated budget by July 31st. There are concerns about the lack of meeting room costs in the budget. It was suggested that Astrid also contact them regarding an update on whether the proposed local funding of \$20,000 has been obtained. Costas Anastassiou from the Allen Institute will give the presentation at the 2017 Members Meeting.

4c. Planning for the Program Committee (Tony, Thomas)

Suggestions:

- The selection of keynote speakers for next year should be done by the present Program Committee so that there is no need to wait for the new Program Committee members.
- This should occur in parallel with replacing some of the present Program Committee members.
- When inviting the keynote speakers, we should offer them a banquet ticket and a T-shirt.

Tony prepared a report with the abstract submission numbers, geographical locations of all submissions, and highlighting trends and issues. There were fewer withdrawals (only 2), and the authors reported withdrawing due to lack of funds. There are six Program Committee members to replace this year, which is higher than usual.

4d. Planning for Tutorials (Ben, Hermann)

Next year we will keep the structure the same as this year. This year we will poll participants of the present tutorials how they liked the structure, do they want changes, etc. The budget for tutorials will stay the same - 10,000 USD. Christof Koch has declared that he wants to give a tutorial.

4e. Planning for Workshops (Eleni)

The Board decided in 2016 that policies for workshop selection should be shared in a document. This is now available at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRSDsSFjIV5i4BiPeOoXii94XB_1nF001Kh1k91mkEk/edit?usp=sharing

and is updated based on last year's experience (deadlines added). The workshop organisers should be encouraged to advertise the workshops to mailing lists etc. Also, Eleni needs a deputy for next year. The aim is to have the list of workshops online during the registration period.

4f. Travel Awards and Tutorial/Workshop Support (Daniel, Taro, Ben, Hermann, Eleni)

The procedures for assigning awards should be recorded. Daniel presented his report on award requests and assignments.

4g. Call for CNS2019 and Beyond (Astrid)

We discussed the meeting structure (see below) and possible joint/overlapping of the meeting with the INCF Congress. The plan is to issue a general call for proposals, but we will also invite potential local organizers specifically. However, the 2019 location should be in Europe. Barcelona was mentioned at the 2016 Board meeting, and there is interest on their part in submitting a proposal. For now it seems that Gaute Einevoll is not interested in submitting a proposal for 2019. The call for proposals needs updating based on this discussion. For 2020, Patricio Orio from the University of Valparaiso in Chile has expressed interest in submitting a proposal.

Regarding the joint meeting with the INCF, should we do a joint meeting or a meeting with some overlap? Strategic advantage is not clear. Does this depend on meeting in a location where there is a INCF Governing Node? No clear decision was obtained on this item.

The current proposal for changing the meeting structure can't be implemented before the 2019 meeting. The primary proposal is to keep the same structure for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, to include some parallel sessions on Tuesday, and to have a full day of workshops on Wednesday. Registration options: Workshop registration would include a 2 day only option. Tuesday should include a poster session which should not be parallel, so the participants of the main meeting and workshops could both participate. This means that the call for proposals should include outlining a meeting that runs Saturday through Wednesday with a need for 8 rooms on Tuesday and Wednesday where at least two of the rooms are fairly large. If we will have a keynote speaker on that day, we will still need the one large room on Tuesday. We voted on implementing this change with one opposed and one abstention.

Abstract and publication issues (Tony, Ingo, Sharon)

5a. Abstract revision after reviewer comments

This question comes up every year. In previous years, board judged this to be not feasible within our timeline. This should be made explicit in the call for abstracts.

5b. Change in (BMC or other?) publication format and possible use of abstract template

Ingo presented his ideas about using a form-based website to keep the formatting simple and less time consuming for the Publication Chair. The current system requires a great deal of editing due to author errors. Sharon added that this also would help with the program book as long as it will output the needed csv file with the information needed for all abstract submissions. The biggest issue is whether we can find a new system for handling conference abstract submission that will also allow for review. If registration provides a number that is required for submission, then a script could check numbers in a checking stage immediately upon submission. (Number is better than a name where there could be matching problems.) OpenConf, EasyChair, etc should be investigated. In the next month, Ingo, Pierre, Thomas, and Sharon (program book requirements) should discuss this. It must be fully functional and tested by the end of November. This will be done this year and then we will consider possible additions or changes to memberclicks and the website next year. We are looking for a system that is less than \$2000 per year. (Confmaster is from \$600 - \$1000 per year.) The board unanimously voted to have this committee work on this

item and that we will implement it in the coming year unless there are major issues that cannot be settled with any of the possible new systems.

Ingo also indicated that BMC was more responsive this year, allowing for multiple files and giving a better price. They also did checks for re-use of text (plagiarism -- see next item). BMC is still more expensive but they provide good exposure. Frontier does not register the abstracts so exposure is less. Erik suggests trying to solve the submission and review problem and stick with BMC for one more year.

Discussion of F1000 OCNS Channel: Pierre brought up the advantages of running a OCNS channel there. One advantage is that it would require no work on our part. Others (Ingo and Erik) pointed out the negatives -- essentially we have no control over the quality or content. We voted on whether we should either open a channel now or postpone the possibility until we know more about how the abstract publication will be done. Votes were two for now, four abstentions, and ten for postponing.

5c. Previously published abstracts

BMC does not allow publication of abstract submissions that were previously published. This should be made explicit in the call for abstracts. There should be more details about expectations that might result in non-publication of an already accepted abstract. The Program Chair should develop a more detailed call for abstracts.

Financial Matters

6a. Sponsoring: update and plans (Michele)

Michele contacted about 25 companies regarding sponsoring, but very few were supportive. Even HBP and Frontiers were not interested in sponsoring anything except for one workshop. Exhibitors seem more interested in experimental meetings. The same sponsors seem to be interested every year, and so far it has been impossible to get new sponsors.

6b. Financial planning for 2018 (Volker)

Volker proposes to keep the budget for the coming year roughly the same. There was some discussion of the funding of travel grant costs. Volker brought a proposal for reducing membership fees. This was approved unanimously by vote of the Board.

Current (1 - 2 - 3 years)

Student 25 USD 37 USD 49 USD

Post-doc 50 USD 75 USD 100 USD

Faculty and other 100 USD 150 USD 200 USD

Proposed (1 - 2 - 3 years)

Student 10 USD 15 USD 20 USD

Post-doc 20 USD 30 USD 40 USD

Faculty and other 50 USD 75 USD 100 USD

6c. Budget approval (Astrid)

The budget was approved by unanimous vote.

Miscellaneous and Matters Arising

7a. OCNS reaction to Trump administration travel policies

We issued a statement on the website (which is visible to members). Should more be done for the US meeting? For now we agree to keep this in mind since scientists from Iran will not be able to attend. We will post something on the website that asks people affected by this to get in touch with us and saying that we will help them deal with this issue.

7b. Yiota would like to issue a call for experimentally testable predictions from CNS. She has drafted an email that she would like to send to meeting attendees regarding this. We discussed how this might work and agreed that we will send a single email to attendees but will not officially endorse this effort. We also will not officially host this on the website.

7c. Funding request from the Python summer school: This is a great course that is very popular and appeals to computational neuroscience students and researchers. It previously was funded by an INCF node. There is agreement that we can offer what we do for other courses such as the MBL Computational Neuroscience Course, which is that we can cover some costs of OCNS members. We suggest that they include a registration fee, and OCNS members can apply to OCNS for funding to attend the meeting (up to about \$2000 each). Another possibility is that they will run the course under the umbrella of OCNS, which would still require charging a registration fee and would mean that the course would not always be in Europe.

7d. The Program Committee will consider a new approach for student poster judging and will email it to the Board for feedback.