



## International Society for Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism

### The ORGAN No. 30 (Aug 06)

**Dear ISCBFM Member,**

It has been many months since the last issue of *The Organ*. To bring the ISCBFM membership up to date regarding the activities and the status of the Society and factors concerning our Journal, the current issue contains reports from Limor Cunia, the Association Account Manager of Kenes International (membership information); Wolfgang Kuschinsky, ISCBFM Treasurer; Costantino Iadecola, Programme Chairman of Brain-07; and Dick Traystman, JCBF&M Editor.

As most of you know, the ISCBFM is also sponsoring a Gordon Research Conference “Brain Energy Metabolism and Blood Flow” August 20-26 at Magdalen College, Oxford (<http://www.iscbfm.org/pdf/2006GRCOxfordProg2209.pdf>). This is the second such conference, of the same theme, sponsored by the Society. We expect it to be just as successful the Conference held two years ago at Colby College, Maine.

We would like to publish *The Organ* more frequently. However, it is also important that the information contained within *The Organ* has some interest for the membership of the Society and is not simply there to occupy space. We are, therefore, requesting suggestions from Society members as to content of future issues of the newsletter. “Creative” suggestions will not be discouraged. These can be sent to me ([dpell@uic.edu](mailto:dpell@uic.edu)) or Limor Cunia ([lcunia@kenes.ch](mailto:lcunia@kenes.ch)).

**Sincerely,**

**Dale Pelligrino**

**Secretary, International Society of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism**

### ▶▶▶▶▶ Note from the President

The International Society for Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism (and its Journal) is 25 years of age. The progression from an informal grouping around a biennial meeting into a formal professional body with its own scientific journal was finalised in June 1981 at the biennial symposium in St. Louis, USA. By most key measures, the International Society is a success. The Society is fiscally secure. The biennial Brain meetings are a success, scientifically and socially. The Journal continues to attract and publish the top papers in the field. The Society is a multi-million dollar operation but for most of its existence had a limited formal

administrative structure. The operation of the Society was based on the resources and time, freely given, of its elected officers. In the last year, the Society has made a number of fundamental improvements to its operational structure which will provide a more secure base for the next 25 years of its existence.

The Society has entered into a partnership with Kenes International. At present, the benefits of the partnership is to strengthen the administration of the society but progressively Kenes will provide expertise in the organisation of major scientific congresses and will be full partners with the Society in the operation of Brain '09 in Chicago. No longer will each local organisers of a Brain meeting have to establish from scratch a logistical operation for the Brain meeting with attendant financial risk only to dissolve the operation when the meeting has occurred.

In 2005, the Society, for the first time in its existence, changed the publisher of its Journal. The Society entered into a partnership with Nature Publishing Group. The next few years will be extremely challenging for scientific publishing with diverse strategies being employed in generating revenue with electronic delivery and in addressing open access pressures. The decision to change publisher was based not on financial return but was based on a shared vision between the Society and Nature of how to deal with these challenges. The financial impact on the Society of the income from the Journal should not be underestimated. The net contribution of the Journal to the Society since 2001, after all costs have been deducted, is more than \$750,000. It is not prudent for the Society to assume that the Journal will provide a revenue stream of this magnitude in perpetuity in view of the electronic publishing revolution in which we are in the midst.

A major weakness in the scientific leadership of the Society is being addressed. The Board of Directors meets in plenary sessions at Brain meetings only every 2 years. Almost half of the Board are newly elected at these meetings and less familiar with the background to issues under discussion. The Board draws expertise from many countries and there are major cultural differences in how committees operate. Despite this, Board meetings are lively with extensive discussions and presentations of new ideas. The major weakness has been in implementing decisions over the next 2 years until the Board reconvenes in plenary session. At its meeting in Amsterdam in 2005, the Board addressed this issue. The Society's committee organisation was fundamentally restructured. Some committees were dissolved and new committees created. More importantly, the membership of the committees is now drawn from the Board of Directors and the mission and goals of each committee has been defined clearly. Committees were encouraged to be innovative. A policy of sliding chairs (where a member of the committee moves to chair the committee) will be implemented to ensure continuity for successful committees and restructuring and redefinition of goals for those less successful committees. For the first time, an Executive Group was established with defined, devolved authority from the Board of Directors to expedite decision making. We will see over the coming years the benefit which derives from these changes.

The ultimate authority in the Society is not the President nor the Board of Directors: the ultimate authority is the membership. Progressively over the last decade, the members have been given less opportunity to hold the officers to account for the actions which have been taken on behalf of the membership. The members elect the officers, approve the accounts and can raise issues at the biennial General Assembly. However, because of time constraints at Brain meetings, the General Assembly has become formulaic with little substantive debate about the operation of the Society. For the next General Assembly in Osaka in 2007, I am exploring ways by which the participation of the members in the operation of the Society can be reinvigorated. Report of officers and committees will be distributed electronically to members well in advance of the meeting. I am exploring establishing web based discussion groups where members can question officers in an open forum. Key issues or areas of concern can be identified and these discussed fully when we convene at the General Assembly. At all

times, members are free to raise in confidence with me any issues which relate to the operation of their Society.

I look forward to meeting with you all in Osaka in May 2007.

**James McCulloch**

**President**

## ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ ▶ Programme Committee – Brain 07

The scientific program Brain 07 (Osaka, Japan, May - 2007) is coming together nicely and the meeting promises to be both informative and exciting. The program will include, in addition to sessions featuring the abstracts submitted to the meeting, several symposia, lunch seminars and educational courses.

The **Symposia** will address the latest advances in areas interest to the Society and will include the following topics:

- Blood-brain barrier,
- Endothelial cell physiology and pathophysiology
- Cellular mechanisms of neurovascular coupling,
- Novel concepts in brain metabolism
- Anesthesia and hemodynamic metabolic baseline
- Brain lipids: roles in cerebrovascular regulation and ischemic brain injury
- Regenerative therapies,
- What is wrong with models of cerebral ischemia,
- Cell cycle regulation and ischemic brain injury
- Brain immune interactions
- Perinatal brain damage: involvement of the innate immune system,
- Aging and cerebrovascular regulation

In addition, we will have **lunch seminars** focusing on the following topics:

- New frontiers in neuroprotection
- Tamura and Kirino: Pioneers in models of cerebral ischemia
- Proteases and basic mechanisms of brain function
- Spreading depression in acute brain injury: the COSBID trial
- Proteases in acute and chronic brain injury
- Biotracers

The meeting will also have a rich **educational program** that is being developed in concert with the Education Committee. Topics include:

- Models of cerebral ischemia,

- Functional imaging,
- Effects of Anesthesia
- Introduction to proteomics,
- Principles of positron emission tomography
- Role of imaging techniques in drugs development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Local Organizing Committee and the Program Committee for their hard work, spirit of cooperation, and commitment to the highest scientific standards. We look forward to seeing you all in Osaka in May 2007.

**Costantino Iadecola, M.D.**  
**On behalf of the Program Committee**



I would like to provide the society and readership of JCBFM with an update concerning the journal. The good news is that the journal continues to do well with submissions of excellent manuscripts in many different areas. From Jan.1, 2006 through June 30, 2006, 291 manuscripts were submitted to the journal. This compares with 252 for the same time period for 2005, a 15.8% increase. And the heaviest submitted months are yet to come (July through October). For the entire year 2005, we accepted 20.8% of all submitted manuscripts, and so far, this year (Jan through June 2006), we have accepted 24.9% of submitted manuscripts.

This year, as last year, we have purchased additional journal pages in an attempt to help reduce the backlog of manuscripts waiting (approximately 4½-5 months) to appear in the hard copy journal. Please remember, however, that when a manuscript is accepted for publication it appears immediately in electronic version complete with a reference number. We have also put into effect new guidelines for manuscript length. Please check the guidelines for authors published in the journal. The idea here is to reduce the page length of manuscripts to conserve pages and this will allow us to publish more manuscripts per year. These page limitations are not too severe so it should not impose a great hardship for authors.

Now to the bad news. The 2005 Impact Factor for JCBFM, released in June 2006, decreased from 5.673 to 4.786 (15.6%). The 2005 Impact Factor is based on the number of cites in 2005 to articles published in 2004/2003, divided by the number of articles published in 2004/2003. Nature Publishing Group has made a thorough analysis of the JCBFM Impact Factor situation, and I include their comments within this message. Due to the increased submission and net acceptance of papers, it could be assumed that an increase in papers was the reason for the decreased Impact Factor. However, the 2005 Impact Factor was in fact based on the lowest number of papers published since the 2001 Impact Factor: 328 papers (2001); 327 (2002); 305 (2003); 306 (2004); 295 (2005).

Looking towards next year's 2006 Impact Factor the number of articles counted will decrease even further to 275. Thus, rather than too many papers and thus too large a denominator in the Impact Factor calculation, the answer lies in the amount of citations to the published papers.

With a decreasing amount of published papers and a healthy immediacy index of 0.893 JCBFM should be increasing its Impact Factor under normal circumstances.

Citations dropped much more significantly in 2005 than at any point in the previous 5 years; specifically cites made during the Impact Factor year to articles published the previous year (in this case, cites in 2005 to articles from 2004). On average from 2001-2004, the numerator in the Impact Factor calculation (which is determined by the number of cites made in the Impact Factor year to articles published in the previous two years) fluctuated up or down by an average of 3.59%. From 2004 to 2005, the numerator dropped by 18.66%, from 1,736 in 2004 to 1,412 in 2005 (average Impact Factor numerator 2000-2004: 1725.8).

From 2001 to 2004, cites made in the year of Impact Factor calculation to articles published the previous year fluctuated up or down by an average of 6.13%, but dropped by 30.17% from 2004 to 2005 (from 749 in 2004 calculation to 523 in 2005; average 2000-2004: 741.2). Cites from Impact Factor year to articles published 2 years before (in this case cites in 2005 to 2003 articles) are also at a 5 year low (down from 987 in 2004 calculation to 889 in 2005; average 2000-2004: 984.6), but the decrease there is not as significant as the drop in cites from Impact Factor year to articles from the previous year. Basically, current citation **data indicates that** 2004 was a low citation year for JCBFM, or at that papers published in 2005 did not have much use for papers from 2004.

One could question if the switch of publishers had an effect. With over 30,000 e-Table of Contents subscribers and over 30,000 online readings of articles per month, we are confident that JCBFM was not compromised through the switch of publisher. Online visibility has never been higher than it is today.

In response to the above, we moving ahead with our plan to publish some larger issues in late summer of 2006, and front-load the early 2007 issues to publish the backlog. With a decreased Impact Factor we have to consider the selling propositions JCBFM offers its authors and focus on timeliness of publication to sustain the competitiveness of JCBFM.

The journal's Impact Factor since 2001 is as follows: 2001 (5.477); 2002 (5.297); 2003 (5.370); 2004 (5.673); 2005 (4.786). In 2005, the JCBFM Impact Factor ranked as 25 out of 200 journals in the category of Neuroscience; 16 out of 89 in the category of Endocrinology and Metabolism; and 8 out of 60 in the category of Hematology.

If any of you have comments or suggestions relating to the journal please do not hesitate to let me know (traystma@ohsu.edu)

**Richard J. Traystman, PhD**

**Editor in chief of JCBFM**

## ▶▶▶▶▶ Membership

Below you can see the table of our membership status of 2006 (up to July 2006).

We are trying to find better and more efficient ways to promote the Society, its different activities, and target new members. We are asking the members to aid us in this endeavor, through renewing their own memberships, encouraging their colleagues to join, and promoting the Society at meetings. We would also welcome any suggestions from members. These can be sent by e-mail to the ISCBFM Administrative office ([info@iscbfm.org](mailto:info@iscbfm.org)) or to Limor Cunia ([lcunia@kenes.ch](mailto:lcunia@kenes.ch)). You may use the same e-mail contacts if you wish to have promotional materials sent to you.

<b>Membership Categories 2006</b>		
		<b>Number of Members</b>
	Editors/Editorial Board	25
	Junior Member (excl. subscription)	65
	Junior Member (online subscription)	8
	Junior Member	2
	Regular Member (online subscription)	207
	Regular Member	180
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>487</b>

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