



International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience

established 1995

www.autonomicneuroscience.info

ISAN AGM minutes 2019

Date: Friday 26th July 2019

Time: Noon

Location: Luskin Conference Center, UCLA, Los Angeles, as part of ISAN 2019

Chairing: Bruno Bonaz (BB)

Others present include: Jeff Ardell, Kalyanam Shivkumar (KS), Kevin Shoemaker, Keith Brain (KB), Pascal Carrive, Bill Farquhar, Roy Freeman (RF), Vaughan Macefield (VM), Valentin Pavlov (VP).

1. Confirmation of Quorum and Apologies:

Apologies: Simon McMullan (SM; Treasurer), Song Yao (Secretary)

Quorum: confirmed that more than 10% of financial members (68) present.

2. Approval of minutes of AGM for ISAN for 2017 (Nagoya meeting). No corrections; minutes approved.

3. Matters arising from the 2017 minutes: all matters deferred to reports in section 4.

4. Committee reports upon the transactions of the Association since the last general meeting

President's report (BB):

- Reported that since the 2017 AGM, ISAN 2021 had been awarded to Cairns, Australia (Vaughan Macefield and colleagues) (Sept 1-3, 2021)
- Noted that membership renewals had fallen, perhaps attributed to an absence of 'reminder' emails
- Note that, in the future, abstract submissions should require an author to be a member of ISAN or a partner society.
- Noted that the ISAN website was being improved, and that there was need for greater engagement with social media, perhaps through the appointment of a Communications officer.
- Noted that the ISAN executive committee should ensure that there was a more balanced ratio of men/women on the committee.

Treasurer (AG): SM wasn't present at the meeting, but the written report was summarized. The written report is attached.

Discussion arising following the report:

VM and others spoke to the advantages of adding the membership fee as an abstract submission fee, as is done by several other societies. There was general support for this proposal, although the complication of managing submissions in the presence of joint meetings was noted. **SK** suggested that this should be considered by the executive committee.

VM proposed raising the membership fee to perhaps \$US150 (from \$US75). There was overall support for this, although **KB** questioned whether the current low expenditure of the society warranted this increase.

International Secretary (KB):

- Thanks to the Song Yao (formal Secretary) who took on the role after the 2017 AGM.
- Thanks to the Melbourne-based secretariat (Belinda Gould and colleagues)
- Noted that the conference abstracts from 2017 had not been uploaded to external archives as most of the proposed archives (like [bioRxiv](#).) required the authors themselves to submit. The proposal now is that all ISAN abstracts should be uploaded and maintained on the ISAN website.
- Noted that the executive had not engaged with other Autonomic societies (AAS; EFAS; Japan Soc. of Neurovegetative Res.) to form an ‘umbrella’ organization, and that this was something which the incoming executive may wish to reconsider.

5. Report from the journal: Autonomic Neuroscience Basic and Clinical (Roy Freeman)

RF reported that there was a need to consolidate the activities of the society and its journal, which were currently on a ‘parallel track’. Submissions to the journal in the area of ‘basic science’ had fallen. The top downloads were reviews from Special Issues and were all Clinical. The impact factor has risen over the last 2 years, driven by clinical papers. It was suggested that the journal and society could work on submission guidelines and writing standards. Members were encouraged to consider applying for forthcoming open positions as Basic Science editors. There was broad support for these proposals.

6. Role of Communications Office (proposal by SM)

SM could not attend the meeting, but submitted the following in writing, which was support by **VM**:

“There is a pressing need to recruit a Communications Officer or similar to take responsibility for updating and running the ISAN website, which is currently in the International Secretary's portfolio. We agreed that this is too much work to include in that portfolio and merits recognition. Unfortunately, despite the Exec and membership moving to outsource the ISAN website to a commercial company (Vesanique Design; <http://vesanique.com.au>) at the AGM a year ago, this project has stalled because nobody has stepped forward to liaise between the Society and the Veranique, despite requests for volunteers. This is frustrating and embarrassing - having an updated web presence should be a priority for our organisation, and we're paying a monthly retainer to Veranique anyway, so in my view it needs to be attended to with urgency.

In order to move this forward I suggest the Society expands the Executive Committee to include the new position of Communications Officer. This would require modification of the ISAN rules by Special Resolution at the AGM and a vote by the membership. I suggest updating the description of the role of International Secretary to remove reference to the web site, and defining a new position:

Communications Officer

(1) Shall oversee content and functionality of the Society's online presence, including the ISAN web page and related social media accounts;

(2) Liaise between the Executive Committee and the membership. Assume this change is approved by vote at the AGM, the Chair of the meeting should then declare the position vacant and call for nominations to the position.”

KB noted that a Communications Officer could be invited to the executive committee with delegated authority, and that this would not require a change in the Rules. There was general agreement that this post would be ideal for a younger member of the society. There was no nomination from the executive prior to the AGM, nor from members at the AGM. Members are encouraged to consider volunteering, or recommending someone who might be able to contribute in this way (noting that appointments to the executive can be made between meeting where there are vacant posts).

7. The fate of conference abstracts

This was discussed as part of the International Secretary’s report.

8. Election of the executive committee:

There was not more than one person nominated from each post on the committee. Therefore the nominees were elected as follows:

Role	Country	Elected
President		Kalyanam Shivkumar
Vice-President		Valentin Pavlov
Past President		Bruno Bonaz
Secretary (Australian resident)		Song Yao
Treasurer		Simon McMullan
International Secretary		Keith Brain
Representatives large (6 posts)	at Africa	Miran Rakha
	Australasia	Pascal Carrive
	North America	Mark Stewart
	Asia	Harumi Hotta
	Europe	Bruno Bonaz
	South America	Ana C. Takakura
Ordinary Members (5)		Kevin Shoemaker
		Christina Nassenstein
		Vaughan Macefield

This leaves two posts for ordinary members vacant.

KS enthusiastically accepted the role of president, proposing to drive forward a theme for the Autonomic Nervous System as the ‘internet of the human body’

VP accepted the role of vice-president, aiming in particular to reach out to other bodies of scientists who may share interests with the society.

9. ISAN 2021: Cairns (Macefield, Goodchild, McAllen, Keast, Carrive and McMullan): A presentation on this meeting was deferred to the closing ceremony (in order to increase the size and scope of the audience).

10. ISAN 2023 (KB): A call for proposals would follow within a few weeks of the AGM, would be emailed out to members and advertised on the ISAN website.

11. Other business: No other business

Next meeting: the date/time for the 2020 AGM has not as yet been decided.

International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience



Financial Report 2018-9

Prepared by Simon McMullan, Treasurer, 24 July 2019

Introduction

I present the balance sheet and the profit and loss (P&L) statements of the Society. Please note the financial year in Australia runs from 1st July to 30th June so the accounts are presented at the 30th June each year.

Balance

Overall the balance of the Society's assets are consistent with previous years (Figure 1); the relatively high balance reported in 2016 reflects sponsorship money held on behalf of the convention organising committee, which was subsequently absorbed by the convention.

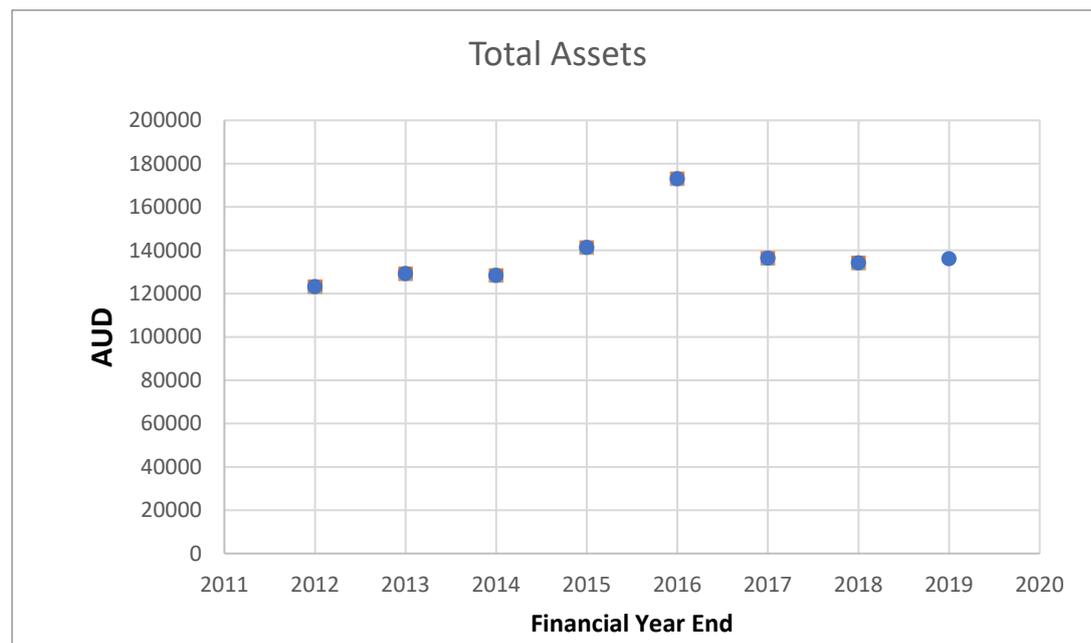


Figure 1 Total assets owned by the Society over time

The long-term savings of the Society continue to grow slowly, from \$76.4k in 2018 to \$78.2 in 2019 (Table 1). Slow growth reflects the low interest rates available to business deposits; there are no cost-effective ways to boost this growth without significant risk.

Table 1 Balance sheet showing current assets, equities and liabilities

	Jun-19	Jun-18
ASSETS		

Current Account	52,818.19	57,741.59
Term Deposit 1	41,731.72	40,753.63
Term Deposit 2	36,511.92	35,656.17
Total Current/Savings	131,061.83	134,151.39
Other Current Assets		
Loan (seed funding) ISAN 2021	5,000.00	
Total Current Assets	136,061.83	134,151.39
TOTAL ASSETS	136,061.83	134,151.39
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Retained earnings	134,151.39	136,313.36
Net income	1,910.44	-2,161.97
Total equity	136,061.83	134,151.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	136,061.83	134,151.39

Profit & Loss

The distribution of expenditure and sources of income differed substantially from 2018 (Table 2); although subscription income in 2017 and 2018 were relatively high (probably accounted for by the lead up to the convention (September 2017), which straddled both financial years), the subscription income for 2019 is nonetheless extremely low (\$2,793) – less than half the average income generated over the last decade (\$6,788 ± 876). The Society has been protected from this loss of income to some extent as the 2019 convention is financially independent from ISAN, but this is nonetheless a cause for concern. The Treasurer urges all members of the Society to renew their membership via the website and to select the recurring repayment option.

In the expenditure section the Executive requested a financial audit this year, which found nothing untoward, and has retained the services of the professional website development team to support redesign and upkeep of the ISAN website. The difference in society management fees paid in 2019 and 2018 reflects a delay in payment and lodgement; no fee was reported in 2016.

Table 2 Income and expenditure in 2018 and 2017

INCOME	2019	2018
Bank Interest Received	1,833.84	1,953.87
Subscriptions	2,793.57	7,079.60
TOTAL INCOME	4,627.41	9,033.47
EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	600.00	0.00

Bank Charges	0.00	120.00
Lodgement Fee	0.00	113.80
Plenary Speaker Payments	0.00	8,248.38
Postage	11.35	0.00
Society Management Fee	1,343.32	2,713.26
Website Hosting	762.30	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,716.97	11,195.44
NET INCOME	1,910.44	-2,161.97

Future Outlook

The financial outlook for the Society is reassuring overall; the Society has a significant assets that will ensure its continued operation for the foreseeable future, with no immediate financial risks posed by either the current ISAN meeting or planned future events. Although the Society is providing seed funding to the 2021 meeting (Cairns, Australia), this will ultimately be repaid to the Society. The largest threat to the Society is dwindling (financial) membership, which poses a potential threat to the Society's income stream. Whether low numbers of financial members actually reflects loss of interest by the community is uncertain; the high attendance of the current scientific meeting suggests otherwise. Outreach to the community and maintenance of the membership directory should be a priority for the coming year.



Figure 2 Membership of the Society at 31 December of each year, 2013-7