

Report of the 3rd meeting of ILAE NeuroBiology Commission (NBC) September 5th, 2015, Istanbul – Convention Center

Invited: members: M de Curtis, A Galanopoulou, N Garcia-Cairasco, R Idro, D Janigro, H-C Kang, K Kobow, M Kokaia, WP Liao, A Nehlig, J Noebels, T O'Brien, R Scott, V Whittemore. *TF Chairs:* J French, A Pitkänen, R Sankar, M Simonato. *Liaisons:* S Moshe, AM Vezzani.

Attending: M de Curtis, A Galanopoulou, N Garcia-Cairasco, R Idro, D Janigro, K Kobow, M Kokaia, WP Liao, J Noebels, T O'Brien, R Sankar, R Scott, M Simonato and R Sankar.

The meeting of the NeuroBiology Commission started at 8³⁰ am and closed at 5³⁰ pm. After lunch, between 1⁰⁰ and 2³⁰ pm the NBC members attended the WONOEP highlight session at the Convention Center - Marmara Hall Chaired by R. Sankar, K. Kobow, M. de Curtis. The Session program was introduced by the Harinarayan Young Neuroscientist Award to Cristina Ruedell and Ping Zheng and was followed by 5 talks on Peripheral biomarkers (M. Patel), Biomarkers of comorbidities (R. Sankar), Biomarkers of damage/epileptogenesis (P. Zheng) and Imaging biomarkers (A. Nehlig) and Biomarkers at the crossroad with clinics (J. Engel). The NBC meeting resumed at 3⁰⁰ pm.

The 2015 Budget (below) was discussed.

2015 Activity	2015 Requested	2015 Approved	Notes
WONOEP	\$35,000	\$35,000	budget for WONOEP
Training & Beyond	\$15,000	\$12,000*	Contingent on obtaining co-sponsorship
Conference Calls	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Business Meeting- Istanbul	\$19,000	\$10,000	Total amount reduced since many of the members are attending WONOEP
Meeting-Translational Task Force - Istanbul	\$15,000	\$15,000	ILAE will match the AES contribution amount up to \$15K - <i>this is in addition to the reserve</i>
TOTALS:	\$87,500	\$73,000	
*not utilized in 2015			

The funds of the Training & Beyond action were not utilized because no additional funding were obtained to proceed with this initiative. We ask to use part of this sum to refund the expensed of the 3 speakers (circa 3300 \$ total) invited to the joint IBRO-ILAE symposium at the IBRO meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, that was erroneously not included in NBC budget for 2015. The contribution of IBRO was not appropriately discussed and was largely insufficient to cover travelling expenses. This proposal was discussed and approved by the Commission. The revenues collected for the 2015 WONOEP and for the Young Neuroscientist Award (circa 40.000 \$) will be available as reserve funds for future WONOEPs and YNAs organized by the NBC.

Terry O'Brien was designated as NBC **Treasurer**. This decision will be communicated to ILAE EC and to Donna Cunard for future exchanges regarding NBC budget.

The proposals for 2016 NBC budget should be submitted to NBC Chair and Treasurer using the table below before October 15th, 2015. The final budget approved by the NBC will be sent to ILAE EC the end of November 2015.

	Type of activity	Date of event	budget request
xxxx Task Force			

The **next NBC meeting** will be organized during the European Epilepsy Congress in Prague, on September 10 or 11, 2016.

Actions: - send TF budget proposal by October 15th 2015 to TOB and MdC (**all TF chairs**)

NBC-ILAE web site

Katja Kobow reported on NBC website

It was discussed the possibility to use new medias like twitter or facebook etc., to disseminate new Commission activities and to facilitate exchanges and comments on matters and news that are of interest for the NBC. It was discussed and approved the possibility to dedicate a small budget for a professional to develop and maintain a facebook/twitter site. KK will contact the Editor of Epilepsy Report to ask advices and possibly to link NBC activities to the advanced dissemination strategy of the Journal. AG and KK will also contact Epilepsia and other Commission to automatically generate a cross-link to publish on the NBC web page papers or events/material dedicated to the neurobiology of epilepsy.

The possibility to include on the web-site a section dedicated to advertise jobs/postdoctoral/PhD positions was briefly discussed and could be implemented. It was requested that 2 special highlights banners are added to the NBC main web page to advertise FUND REQUESTS and JOB OFFERS.

Actions: - contact Editors of Epilepsy Disorder and Epilepsia and the Chairs of ILAE Topic-oriented Commissions to cross-link NBC web page to neurobiology-related events – **KK and AG**
- look for an expert to develop facebook/twitter visibility (**all members**)
- open a new job offer service on web page – **MdC + KK**
- highlight jobs/postdoctoral/PhD positions and fund request form -**KK**

Translational TF activities

AG, MS and TOB reported on the very successful and advanced ILAE/AES Translational TF activity and on the NC3R initiative. A TF meeting was planned for the 9th of September 2015. Working Groups were identified to develop the following review manuscripts/commentaries that will be submitted to Epilepsia, to be published in a Special Issue of Translational TF activity.

Details on the progress of the activities of the Translational TF can be in the TF report of September 9th meeting (see NBC web site).

Actions: - finalize manuscripts and submit to Epilepsia in early 2016
- send Translational TF report to for web site publication

WONOEP TF activities

XIII WONOEP was successfully organized at Halki Palace on Heibelyada Island by Filiz Onat, Candan Gurses, with the local assistance of Medine Gulcebi. XIII WONOEP final budget was ~ 44.000 \$.

Revenues for about 40.000 \$ were obtained for WONOEP in addition to the budgeted 35.000 \$ from ILAE and will be available for future WONOEPs and YNAs.

A new WONOEP logo created by Bryony Reed (patient of RS) was utilized for the first time at XIII WONOEP.

WONOEP Appraisal: The following scientists were identified as responsible for the development of WONOEP reviews (WONOEP Appraisals):

-Peripheral bmk	Manisha Patel, Laureen Walker
-Brain damage/comorbidity bmk	Filiz Onat, Teresa Ravizza, Alon Friedman, Kevin Staley
-Imaging bmk	Erwin van Vliet, Paolo Federico
-Bmk at the crossroad w clinics	Jeff Loeb, Sergius Jozwiak

The first draft of WONOEP Appraisals is expected for the end of 2015 and will be sent to all coauthors for approval. A final version of each review should be ready and should be ideally submitted to *Epilepsia* by the corresponding author AS A REGULAR REVIEW before the end of April 2016 to be published before the end of 2016.

Next WONOEP (XIV): Proposals from NBC members for 2017 WONOEP will be collected by Mdc. To



enhance the relationship with the ILAE main Congress, a theme pertinent to the general priority topics of the 2017 ILAE (*Comorbidities, Precision medicine, Epileptic encephalopathies, Understanding the nature of seizures: identifying the epileptic networks, Novel technologies for epilepsy*) will be selected. Proposals will be voted by NBC members to select the WONOEP theme. A detailed program with proposal of discussants and possible introduction speakers will be developed before the next Commission meeting in Prague (September 2016) and will be finalized during the same meeting. A Local Organizing Committee and a location should be identified.

A first WONOEP announcement will be published just after the next NBC meeting, before the end of September 2016.

The general WONOEP format was confirmed and the following improvements were proposed. It was proposed that during the final session the debated topics will be summarized to reach a consensus/common view that will be presented at the main ILAE Congress during the WONOEP Highlight session.

It was also proposed to improve the format of WONOEP Highlight Session. The presentations at XIII WONOEP Highlight session were uneven and the summary of the discussion on biomarkers in epilepsy was not well focused. More effective reports should be organized for future editions, highlighting the conclusions and proposed advancements discussed at WONOEP.

The participation of young attendants (4-6) sponsored either by NBC or by Regional Commissions will be guaranteed for the 2017 WONOEP.

WONOEP tales: RS proposal to issue on the NBC webpage WONOEP success stories was discussed. The possibility to ask *Epilepsia* to publish them was also mentioned. The call for proposal will be circulated by KK and RS among senior scientists involved in WONOEP organization and young WONOEP attendants that recognize the workshop as a crucial event in their career development in the field of epilepsy.

Actions: - send reminder for WONOEP Appraisal (Mdc): first draft by December 31st 2015; Final version before and submission to *epilepsia* before the end of April 2016.

- collect XIV WONOE theme proposals before the end of October 2015 (**MdC**)
- select a topic related to the main themes of the main ILAE Congress (**all NBC**)
- prepare a general scheme of XVI WONOE before next NBC meeting (Sept 2016)
- first XIV WONOE announcement before the end of September 2016
- abstract submission deadline January 15th 2017
- abstract selection by February 15th 2017
- call for “WONOE tales” among senior and junior participants to past editions of WONOE - **KK & RS**

Young Independent Neuroscientist Award

NBC promoted for the first time an Award for the best Neuroscience abstract/contribute submitted to the International ILAE meeting. Cristina Ruedell and Ping Zheng, were selected by the members of the NBC from >100 candidates and were awarded at the WONOE highlight session. During the selection process it was proposed to designate the Young Neuroscientist Award to the Harinarayan Family that generously contributed to WONOE funding, after obtaining the permission of the donor. This decision was discussed and it was proposed that the name of the award should be changed in Neurobiology Commission Young Independent Neuroscientist Award. If the Harinarayan family is willing to support the Award for the next future, the family endowment will be maintained. RS will explore this possibility. The amount of the award was set at 2.000 Euro.

For future ILAE meetings the applications to will be advertised on the Congress registration form. Candidates should prove 1) to support an independent research activity by signing the abstract as last author and 2) no more than 5 years after graduation. JN and RI will develop a text for the award call/application. The general organization of the Award will be proposed to the ILAE EC for the 2017 ILAE Congress.

Actions:

- **RS** will verify if the Harinarayan family is willing to support the Award for the next future
- **JN** and **RI** will develop a text that describes the requirements for the young independent neuroscientist award application

Dissemination and Educational TFs activities

The NBC program at ECE Prague 2016 includes a NEUROBIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM on “Learning about focal ictogenesis from patients (and animal models)”

2017 ILAE Congress: The next ILAE Congress will take place in Barcelona, Spain, September 2017. Proposals for 2017 ILAE Congress can be submitted before October 30th 2015. Proposals for a Neurobiology Symposium can be sent to MdC and will be voted by NBC members before the end of October 2015 - an extension of this deadline can be requested to the 2017 ILAE Congress SOC.

Four educational sessions can be proposed with the format utilized of 2015 ILAE meeting. Topics related to ILAE 2017 main themes are welcome. One of the proposals by AG and MS was to discuss the use of alternatives to animal experimentation and/or the refinement of animal model techniques to improve animal welfare (highly recommended by Translational TF members of NBC).

The NBCYIN Award will be proposed also for 2017 ILAE Congress.

Regional Commission joint TF: In February 2015 a meeting of NBC chair with the CEA set the background for potential interactions between the two Commissions, and the development of a joint CEA/NBC task force was proposed (candidate members: KK and RS). All CEA members agreed that it is important to have basic science within courses and meetings, and it was agreed that it would be important to monitor basic scientist presence and to encourage their involvement in CEA activities. CEA agreed that it would be helpful if a Task force is formed to address the proposed program, detailed below:

- Promote European participation (senior & young scientists) to NBC TF activities
- Contribute to identify clinically relevant TOPICS for future WONOEPs
- Sponsor European 5-10 young independent scientists at WONOEP
- Support translational neurobiology topics at Regional Courses/Meetings
 - define the topic(s) and people
 - where it is feasible, involve local neuroscientist to enhance regional research connections
 - where it is not feasible, co-sponsor speakers with dedicated NBC and CEA funds (limited to 1 or 2 activities per year) – also for these events recruit local neurobiologists
- Reinforce the interactions for the neurobiology events **at ECE**
 - Neurobiology Symposium proposed by NBC
 - Educational activities on research topics of clinical relevance (as 2015 ILAE)
- Monitor the participation of neurobiologists and clinical neuroscientists to ECE

During the NBC meeting it was proposed to explore the interest of other Regional Commissions to work on a similar program in the geographical area of pertinence. The following NBC members volunteered to contact Commission Chairs:

NGC and **DJ** contact the Latin American Commission

RI and **RSc** contact the African Affairs Commission

RS and **TOB** contact the Asian-Oceanian Commission

AG contact the North American Commission

“Stop vivisection” and future actions: **AG** discussed the action of NBC to contrast the “stop vivisection” European initiative. Following the submission of this initiative to phase out animal experimentation in Europe, multiple academic institutions were mobilized to support the animal experimentation. This included official letters from our Translational Task Force and the Neurobiology Commission, signed also by the ILAE and IBE leaderships, to support and justify the need for animal experimentation. There was a positive resolution by the EU Parliament’s decision, which did not favor this initiative. However, one of the EU actions items is to organize a debate--- conference for this topic by end of 2016, for which we need to be ready to respond. They only emphasize the importance of being careful on the way we address and discuss animal experiments in scientific meetings or publications and the value of being appreciative for what they have offered to science and medicine so far.

The possible actions of the NBC were discussed. It was decided to rise attention for any European or extra-European initiative that will support epilepsy research. It was also suggested that NBC should disseminate the discussion on animal welfare and animal experimentation at epilepsy meetings.

NBC funding request:

The request by Heinz Beck to sponsor with 10.050\$ the European Gordon Conference 2016 and the request by Luisa Rocha to sponsor with 10.000\$ a neurobiology workshop in Latin America were discussed. It was approved to include the requests in 2016 NBC budget, provided that the two events will discuss/include a session on themes suggested by the NBC. A letter will be sent by NBC (Mdc) to Heinz Beck and Luisa Rocha.

MK reported on Epilepsy Symposium at IBRO meeting (July 2015) on Optogenetics in Epilepsy (see discussion on budget for the posthumous request to support the symposium speakers on 2015 NBC budget).

Actions:

- proposals for 2017 Neurobiology Symposium before Oct 20th 2015 collected by **Mdc**
- Contact Regional Commission for jopined TFs (**NGC, DJ, RI, RS, RSc, TOB, AG**)
- selection of Neurobiology Symposium for ILAE 2017 before the end of October 2015
- proposals for 4 educational sessions (**all members**)

-alert on future initiatives on animal experimentation

-letter for Gordon Conf. support and Latin America neurobiology workshop (**MdC**)