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HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The Preamble of The ISP Constitution (last version accepted at the 4th ISP Congress in Budapest, 2002) states that “Pathophysiology is a modern integrative biomedical science founded on basic and clinical research that is concerned with the mechanisms responsible for the initiation, development, and treatment of pathological processes in humans and animals. The International Society for Pathophysiology (ISP) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization uniting specialists of experimental physiology, clinical medicine and modern biology who work on the problems of human and animal pathophysiology. The ISP cooperates with related international scientific societies and associations.”

Osmo Hänninen, who served as the organizing Secretary General of the Centennial Congress of the IUPS (International Society of Physiological Sciences) held in Helsinki (1989), recalled, that some time before the Congress started he got a message from academician Georgy N. Kryzhanovsky, of Moscow, suggesting they meet. They agreed to do this during the Congress. Vladimir Shinkarenko, who spoke fluent English, was also present. Their mini-conference took place in a Helsinki restaurant under the portrait of the Russian Emperor Nicolai II. At that time, the presence of the Emperor - even as a painting - would have been impossible in the Soviet Union (USSR).

During the discussion Kryzhanovsky suggested that they organize a Constituent Congress of the International Society for Pathophysiology in Moscow. He asked if Hänninen and the Finnish Physiological Society were willing to help, as several practical matters, including correspondence and telecommunications were slow and unreliable in the USSR. He got the promise and the help in time.

It should be mentioned that Ulrich Zwiener[†], Chairman of the Society for Pathological and Clinical Physiology of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), and later a founding member of The ISP, did also a lot in the field of pathophysiology for the development of international scientific relations beyond the “Iron Curtain”. This included organizing the International Congress for



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Pathophysiology in the GDR (Leipzig, 1984) when he put forward the idea of establishing an "International Society of Pathophysiology" (see R. Bauer: Acta Physiol. Hung. 92: 93-95, 2005).

THE CONSTITUENT (1ST) CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PATHOPHYSIOLOGY - 1991 MOSCOW, USSR

The Organizing and Scientific Program Committee of the Congress consisted of 28 acknowledged experts in physiological sciences from all over the world.

Kryzhanovsky served as President of the Congress, and Shinkarenko as the Secretary General. A few other committees – e.g. Teaching - were also established.

As previously agreed, two headquarters were formed: the main organizing office was in Moscow. However, matters that concerned participants from countries other than the USSR (i.e. registrations, scientific communications, correspondence) as well as compiling the scientific publications of the Congress were taken care of at the Department of Physiology, University of Kuopio (Finland) headed by Hänninen. The communication between these two offices was first handled by couriers. The employees of one of the sponsors, Orion Pharmaceutica, helped a lot in this context. Even the help of the Finnish Embassy in Moscow was enjoyed. Later on Shinkarenko managed to get smoother telephone, fax and e-mail connections. One should remember, that during those days the infrastructure in Russia was totally different, and it was practically impossible for a common person to phone/fax abroad, and in general mail too was unreliable.

These times were rather unstable. Rumours about the bad shape of the politico-economical situation in the USSR were heard all over the world, and these created uncertainty in many aspects. Some even doubted if the meeting could be held at all. Despite this, the National Organizing Committee – Kryzhanovsky and Shinkarenko as the key executive members – managed to organize a large scale international congress with a fine scientific program and interesting social events (including ballet and opera in the Bolshoi Theatre, The Moscow Circus, city tours, etc).

More than 1000 participants attended the Congress and more than 4000 abstracts were published in the Abstract book.



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The draft Constitution of The ISP was elaborated in Finland using the Constitution of the International Council of Laboratory Animal Science as background material with a number of modifications taken mostly from other sources.

In the General Assembly of the newly established ISP in Moscow, Kryzhanovsky was elected to serve as President and Shinkarenko as Secretary General of the Society.

The Constitution was adopted. Some of the participants suggested that The ISP would be a society of societies, but others proposed to allow individual members as well. It was decided that individuals could be ISP members too. The Council was established, which authorized Toshikazu Yoshikawa to negotiate about starting a new journal: Pathophysiology, the official journal of The ISP. It was also decided to join the IUPS with The ISP as an Associate Member.

During the meeting Japan won the voting against Finland to host the 2nd ISP Congress.

After the Congress, Kryzhanovsky and Shinkarenko took care of the official registration of the new Society, while Finland provided the supporting documents concerning international matters.

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PATHOPHYSIOLOGY - 1994 KYOTO, JAPAN

The Second Congress was run under the presidency of Yukata Oomura, with Toshiie Sakata his “right hand” as Secretary General.

The Congress was held at the modern Kyoto International Conference Hall and run successfully with 1249 participants according to the List of Participants, however, in reality somewhat less than 1000 attended. Unfortunately, the economic situation in the socialist countries had deteriorated further and far fewer participants than expected from those countries were able to participate.

The congress program included 5 plenary and one special lecture, 3 round table discussions, 37 symposia, 84 workshops, 230 posters, and 6 satellite symposia.



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Oomura was elected to serve as ISP President and Hänninen as President Elect, while Shinkarenko continued as the Secretary General. Sakata was elected as Treasurer.

Finland was selected to host the 3rd International Congress of Pathophysiology, ISP-1998.

On behalf of The ISP, Oomura signed the agreement with Elsevier Publishing House to start the journal Pathophysiology. The Editorial Board was elected in Kyoto.

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PATHOPHYSIOLOGY - 1998 LAHTI, FINLAND

Osmo Hänninen served as the President of the Congress and Chandan K Sen as its Secretary General.

The hosting organization was the Finnish Physiological Society, its treasurer Esa Hohtola taking care of economic matters. As with the preparation of the constituent congress of The ISP, again Mrs. Anu Laine (Kuopio) was of most valuable help during the planning phase. Mustafa Atalay was responsible for all the publications. About 900 participants from 51 countries attended During ISP-98, approximately 350 invited lectures were delivered, and about 1000 communications were presented. As the economic situation had further deteriorated in the socialist countries, the attendance from these countries was again considerably less than expected.

The Congress was held in Lahti at the Cultural Center.

Congress participants sailed over Lake Vesijärvi in sunshine and calm waters.

The Abstracts were published as a special issue of Pathophysiology (Vol 5 Supplement 1, 1998) by *Elsevier*. The Program Book contained the Index of the Abstracts' volume.

At the Council meeting Hänninen was elected to serve as ISP President and Emil Monos as President Elect because Hungary was chosen to host the 4th International Congress of Pathophysiology, ISP-2002. Lajos Szollár was elected as ISP Secretary General. Sakata continued as ISP Treasurer. The President was authorized to travel to China to study the suggested venue in Beijing and to report to The ISP Executive Committee.



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4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PATHOPHYSIOLOGY - 2002 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

With Emil Monos as President and Lajos Szollár as Secretary General, the ISP-2002 was held at the Eötvös Lóránd University Convention Centre located on the banks of River Danube on the Buda side of the Hungarian Capital. The Hungarian Physiological Society was the hosting society.

The 6th International Conference of the European Society for Noninvasive Cardiovascular Dynamics was integrated with the program of The ISP-2002 in the form of two congress symposia.

Seven hundred abstracts received from 48 countries represented around 2000 scientists. The total number of registered participants was 660. Based on the preliminary registrations in excess of 3000, the attendance could have been significantly higher, had the alarming political and economic events of 2001 – the attack against the World Trade Centre, New York - not deterred quite a few potential attendees and sponsors from participating.

The congress program covered a wide range of scientific topics from mechanisms of human and animal diseases through to therapeutic interventions. In addition, advanced methods of pathophysiological education were addressed.

One of the main objectives of the Local Organizing Committee was to promote and stimulate communication between experts both during and following the Congress. Therefore, in the Abstract volume (*Acta Physiologica Hungarica* 89/1-3, 2002) and in the Final Program booklet, each paper abstract featured the e-mail address of the respective speaker. In addition, the Abstract volume contained a full name index. Further, this was the first ISP congress organized by using a website (<http://isp2002.sote.hu>).

Congress participants also received a memorial bronze medal with the logo of ISP-2002 on one side, and a portrait of Hungarian King István (Saint Stephen) on the other, to commemorate the millennial historical past of Hungary. Cultural events included the opening ceremony with musical performance by The Jenő Hubay Chamber Orchestra, and an organ concert by Norbert Balogh in Matthias Cathedral. Several site-seeing programs and pre- as well as post-congress tours in



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Hungary were also offered. A banquet aboard the Danube cruiser “Európa” with a spectacular firework display closed the Congress.

The Ceremonial Hall of the Council of Semmelweis University Budapest hosted the leadership electoral meeting. Rector Péter Sótonyi, in the capacity of host, awarded Ignác Semmelweis medals to the preceding presidents of ISP. In a secret ballot Emil Monos (Hungary) and Qi-de Han (China) were unanimously voted President and President Elect, respectively, for a 4-year term. Osamu Matsuo (Japan) was elected the Treasurer, Amanda Lochner (Republic of South Africa) became Vice President, and Serguei V. Grachev (Russia) Executive Vice President. Vice President David H. Lewis (Sweden), Editor of Pathophysiology Yoshikawa (Japan), and Secretary General Lajos Szollár (Hungary) were confirmed in their posts. After hearing the reports from The ISP officials, election and re-election of the 25 board members took place at the General Assembly of the ISP. Recipients of 10 junior awards were announced. Following bid presentations of a uniformly high standard, the venues of the next ISP Congresses were decided by ballot: Beijing in 2006, and preliminarily Montreal in 2010 (the latter to be confirmed at the Beijing Congress after receiving the report on preparations).

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PATHOPHYSIOLOGY - 2006 BEIJING, CHINA

The fifth International Congress of Pathophysiology (www.isp2006.org.cn) was organized in the China International Conference Centre, Beijing by the Chinese Association of Pathophysiology with the support of the China Association for Science and Technology. Qi-de Han served as President of the Congress and Liling Wu as the Secretary General.

The Congress Organizers received 1076 abstracts from 42 countries. The total number of registered participants was 928. 390 oral presentations were programmed in 34 congress symposia, 686 abstracts were presented in 12 poster sections. 15 internationally renowned guest speakers delivered their plenary lectures, some after the Opening Ceremony and the remainder, before the Closing Ceremony. Six satellite meetings were held. Ten young scientists poster prizes were awarded.

The presentations of the Congress covered a wide range of scientific topics from the mechanisms of human and animal diseases to therapeutic interventions. The



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scale of observations ranged from molecules to organs, or even to the whole organism. Integrative approaches were accentuated in both research and pathophysiological education.

Abstracts of the presentations were published in the Chinese Journal of Pathophysiology (Vol 22, 13, 2006), the official journal of the Chinese Association of Pathophysiology.

The Congress was run smoothly, and the spirit of the meeting was imbued with the humanistic flavour of traditional and modern Chinese culture, and with the remarkable progress of Chinese science.

Following tradition, The ISP had its administrative meetings during and immediately after the Congress. The General Assembly elected for the next four year period Qi-de Han (China) to serve as ISP President and Youyi Zhang (China) as ISP Secretary General. Other Officers (2006-2010): Emil Monos (Hungary) Past President, Pavel Hamet (Canada) President Elect, Yuriy Arkhipenko (Russia) Vice President, Stephen Greenwald (England) Vice President, Youyi Zhang (China) Secretary General, László Rosivall (Hungary) Treasurer, Osmo Hänninen (Finland) Editor-in-Chief of Pathophysiology. Further, 24 Council Members were elected/re-elected by the General Assembly for 2006-2010. Elected honorary life members of The ISP are Georgy N. Kryzhanovsky (Russia) Founding Honorary President, Juraj Korpas (Slovakia) Honorary Council Member, Yukata Oomura (Japan) Honorary Council Member, and Toshikazu Yoshikawa (Japan) Honorary Editor of Pathophysiology.

During the General Assembly, the Beijing ISP Declaration concerning the important role and position of pathophysiological teaching/learning in biomedical curricula was unanimously approved by the delegates (see. www.ispathophysiology.org).

The ISP General Assembly confirmed that the 6th Congress of Pathophysiology (ISP-2010) will be held in Montreal, Canada with Pavel Hamet as Congress President and Sergei Orlov as Secretary General (www.ISPmontreal2010.com). Based on four ambitious bid presentations from Morocco with the African Association of Physiological Sciences (AAPS), Serbia, Ukraine, and Turkey, the venue of The ISP-2014 congress was decided by the new ISP Council in a secret ballot. Rabat, Morocco with Wail Benjelloun, Secretary General of AAPS, won the bid. The General Assembly during the 6th ISP Congress in Montreal will



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receive the Moroccan report on preparations and vote on the venue of The ISP-2014 Congress according to ISP traditions.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY - THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF ISP
(www.elsevier.com or www.elsevier.com/locate/pathophys)

The founder of the journal was Toshikazu Yoshikawa, Japan. He became also the first Editor-in-Chief of Pathophysiology. He was successful in negotiations with the Elsevier International Publishing House, who undertook to publish the journal. The *a priori* principle was that the journal subscription would be part of The ISP membership fee. Professor Yoshikawa collected the necessary number (300) of subscription fees. Unfortunately, the annual dues of ISP were decided at so low level that they could not cover the subscriptions of the journal. In order to promote the future of the journal, two regional editors were nominated: D Neil Granger to deal with matters relating to the Americas and Osmo Hänninen, to Europe.

The Publishing House Elsevier became unhappy with some delays in the publication time tables of the issues and Hänninen, as suggested by The ISP leadership, was invited to serve as Editor-in-Chief. Granger continued as Regional Editor for The Americas. Hans-Christoph Scholle and Osamu Matsuo have been serving as Regional Editors for Europe and Asia-Pacific, respectively.

At present, Elsevier is engaged in negotiations with ISP President Han and Editor-in-Chief Hänninen about how to continue, as The ISP fee system cannot cover the required financial load.

ISP HOMEPAGE ON THE INTERNET

A remarkable achievement of the new ISP Executive Committee members in Beijing has been the creation of a permanent website for the Society within less than a year of election. The colorful homepage is rich in interesting and important information related to The ISP (www.ispathophysiology.org). This will surely, help to foster the exchange of information between scientists all over the world interested in the cause of pathophysiology.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Office of the President
Prof. **Qide Han**
Peking University Health Science Center
Xueyuan Road No.38, Haidian District
Beijing 100083, China
Tel: (86-10) 82802168
Fax: (86-10) 62015681
Email: hanqd@bjmu.edu.cn

Office of the Secretary General
Prof. **Youyi Zhang**
Institute of Vascular Medicine
Peking University Third Hospital
Huayuan-Bei Road No.49, Haidian District
Beijing 100083, China
Tel: (86-10) 82802306 Fax: (86-10) 82802306
Email: zhangyy@bjmu.edu.cn

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Emil Monos,
Past President of ISP