

Mundinger

MINUTES  
of the Founding Meeting  
of the European Society for  
Stereotactic and Functional Neuro-Surgery

The meeting was convened by Prof. Dr. Riechert on the 30th of September 1970 at 10 a.m. in the University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany. The following invited members were present:

Prof. Dr. T. Riechert, Freiburg, Germany  
Prof. Dr. F. Mundinger, Freiburg, Germany  
Prof. Dr. G.B. Delzanno, Milan, Italy  
Herr Dr. H. Diemath, Salzburg, Austria  
Prof. Dr. Sz. Toth, Budapest, Hungary  
Herr Dr. Szikla, Paris, France  
Herr Dr. G. Guiot, Paris, France  
Prof. Dr. L. Leksell, Stockholm, Sweden  
Herr Dr. B. Broager, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Herr Doz. Dr. L. Laitinen, Helsinki, Finland  
Prof. Dr. J. Gybels, Leuven, Belgium  
Herr Dr. Siegfried, Zürich, Switzerland  
Herr Dr. J. van Manen, Groningen, Netherlands  
Prof. Dr. F.J. Gillingham, Edinburgh, Scotland

Prof. Riechert thanked the group for its interest and participation in the founding of this society. He said that he had used the occasion of the last International congress on Stereocencephalotomy in New York to speak with Professors Spiegel and Wycis about the feasibility of founding such a society in Europe. They spoke in favour of this idea, especially since there is already a stereotactic society in South-East Asia. Prof. Riechert thanked Prof. Mundinger for his work in organizing the affairs leading up to the founding meeting and for arranging this meeting itself. He made note of the fact that because of his involvement in the International Society he was hin-

dered from taking on the responsibility of directing the founding of the new society and suggested that the members appoint a chairman for this purpose. He further remarked that two representatives from each European country had been invited to participate in this founding meeting. Although there would certainly be other colleagues from each land who might well have been invited to this session also, Prof. Riechert felt it to be more advantageous and more practical - and, moreover, in adherence with the practice established by the International Society - to limit the number of participants in the founding meeting to two per country. Afterwards, other colleagues should be invited to participate in the first General Meeting of the society itself. Prof. Riechert proposed that the direction of the meeting be turned over to Prof. Gillingham of Edinburgh. Prof. Gillingham consented to lead this session and the meeting was turned over to him by Prof. Riechert.

Prof. Gillingham asked if there were unanimous agreement on the part of the members present to found the proposed society. An observer to the proceedings, Prof. Dr. Hassler, raised the question of the group's competency to found the society in the name of those scientists and medical doctors who were not present as invited participants: those present represented but a small percentage of those working in the field of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery; furthermore, not all European countries were represented by even one delegate. Despite these objections the group's authority was unanimously concluded by those members present and a discussion of the Constitution and By-Laws was then taken up.

The matter of the appropriate title for the society was thereupon called to the group's attention by Prof. Gillingham.

First, the spelling of "stereotactic" in preference to "stereotaxic" was chosen for reasons of convenience. It was agreed that the term "stereoencephalotomy" was too narrow a concept, that it did not include operations on the pituitary gland, or spinal stereotactic surgery. Because the technique of stereotactic operations is a relatively easy one to master, it was urged that the society base its organization and purpose on the basic research involved in such operations and not merely on the techniques involved. It was therefore concluded that the society be titled the "European Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery".

Once again, Prof. Dr. Hassler raised the point of the group's authority to found the proposed society. Attorney Prieß, advisor to the group on legal matters, commented that it was the most reasonable and efficient method of procedure to discuss and debate the Constitution and By-Laws sentence by sentence and that such a procedure would be virtually impossible and extremely time-consuming in a group of five hundred or more delegates. Moreover, the Constitution would in all probability be amended within two or three years in any case, as is usual for societies of this type, and that those colleagues not present at this founding meeting would then have the opportunity to propose amendments. Prof. Dr. Hassler then left the room, as it was concluded that the participation of Professors Mundinger and Riechert was seen as sufficient from the viewpoint of the colleagues in Germany for the founding of a society

for stereotactic neurosurgery, regardless of the fact that some leading workers in this field were not present at the meeting.

It was again stated that invitations to this meeting had gone out to two colleagues in stereotaxy in each European country including the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, many of these invited members didn't come to the session. The presiding chairman, Professor Gillingham, then asked if the group were in agreement to form the society at the present time. If not, each of them had copies of the drafts and the meeting could be postponed until more of the invited members would be able to attend. The members present agreed unanimously to the immediate founding of the society.

The Constitution and By-Laws were then discussed sentence by sentence and a final draft, which is appended to these minutes, was worked out and agreed upon by unanimous hand-vote of all members present. Each of the founding members was asked to sign the presiding chairman's copy of the Draft of the Constitution and By-Laws.

After passage of the Constitution and By-Laws, the session turned to consideration of the matter of a presiding Council itself. The following terms of office for Council members were agreed upon:

1. The President should serve for 2 years with the possibility of re-election for a subsequent 2 years;
2. The Vice-president should serve for 2 years, normally with succession to the chair of President;
3. The Secretary-treasurer should serve for 3 years with the possibility of re-election to insure continuity in administration of the society. The possibility should exist of overlapping the terms of two secretary-treasurers, the one not re-elected serving as aid to the council;

4. The Assistant-secretary should serve for a term of two years.

It was hoped that limiting the President's term to two years would have the effect of rotating the office among the members and the various countries represented and of stimulating new approaches to stereotactic and function neurosurgery and to research, and to further development of the society.

Thereupon, election for Council members was opened.

Prof. Gillingham was nominated as the only candidate for the office of President and was elected in hand-vote of a majority of members present to this office.

Prof. Munding was the only nomination for office of Vice-presidence and was likewise elected to his office by a majority hand-vote of those members present.

For the office of Secretary-treasurer one candidate, Dr. Guiot, was proposed and also elected by a majority hand-vote of those members present.

The only nomination for the position of Second Secretary was Dr. Diemath. His election was also carried by majority hand-vote of members present.

The following nominations for representatives from each European country were made for the Executive Committee:

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. England:        | Dr. John Hankinson     |
| 2. Holland:        | Dr. J. van Manen       |
| 3. Switzerland:    | Dr. J. Siegfried       |
| 4. Sweden:         | Prof. L. Leksell       |
| 5. Belgium:        | Prof. J. Gybels        |
| 6. France:         | Dr. G. Szikla          |
| 7. Norway:         | Dr. Sven Boyesen       |
| 8. Italy:          | Prof. G.B. Delzanno    |
| 9. Austria:        | Dr. J.A. Ganglberger   |
| 10. Russia:        | Prof. E. Kandel        |
| 11. Csekoslovakia: | Dr. V. Vladyka         |
| 12. Spain:         | Dr. Guillermo Driessen |
| 13. Hungary:       | Prof. Sz. Tóth         |
| 14. Germany:       | Prof. T. Riechert      |
| 15. Denmark:       | Dr. B. Broager         |
| 16. Finland:       | Doz. Dr. L. Laitinen   |

The selection of candidates from the remaining countries was postponed to a later date.

It was proposed that the next General Meeting of the society be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, two years hence in connection with the planned meeting of the newly-founded Society for Psychosurgery. Prof. Gillingham agreed to write this society and inquire if this proposal to hold the two meeting conjunctly be amenable to them. The final decision on the matter would be then taken up by the Council.

A Credential's Committee was selected, consisting of the following members:

1. Dr. J. van Manen
2. Prof. J. Gybels
3. Prof. Sz. Toth

The Committee was asked to choose a chairman, to write to all prospective members and then to have their chairman write to the President of the society to request that specific persons be accepted for membership in the society.

The seat of the business office was designated as Freiburg, Germany. The Council decided upon the following membership fees: for acceptance in the society 74 French Francs; annual fees for both active and associate members 50 French Francs.

As the final matter of business, the President stated that he would assume the task of writing to other societies related to theirs in order to announce their founding and would write to the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies to request membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

30. September 1970

Respectfully submitted