

**Biennial General Meeting, Helsinki, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

**Present:**

Bruce Robertson  
Maurice Roze  
Kangmoon Seo  
Joe Laus  
Gil Ben Shlomo  
David Maggs  
Claudio Peruccio  
Peter Bedford  
Gil McLellan  
Jean-Pierre Jegou  
Johanna Premont

**Apologies:**

Sandra van der Woerdt  
Akihiko Saito  
Felipe Wouk

**Proxy:**

None

**Minutes**

1. Bruce Robertson called meeting to order 12:40 pm
2. Motion to adopt agenda Proposed Bruce Robertson; Seconded David Maggs
3. Approval of the minutes from Auckland 2013. Proposed David Maggs; Seconded Bruce Robertson
4. Bruce Robertson summarized and answered questions regarding the President's report (attached)
5. Bruce Robertson read Sandra van der Woerdt's Secretary/Treasurer's Report (attached)
6. David Maggs presented and answered questions regarding the financial report (attached)
7. Gil Ben Shlomo provided webpage/Facebook update
  - a. Facebook has 400 members and is seeing a moderate level of activity. Gil receives feedback from many more than those who are active on Facebook
  - b. It is currently open to any veterinarian not just members
  - c. Gil encouraged more experienced members to provide entries and responses to those posting
  - d. Bruce Robertson thanked Gil for his work on this
8. **Elections:** Bruce Robertson summarized the relevant bylaws and summarized the ways in which these had been adhered to during the election process. The nominees were Peter Bedford (nominated by Bruce Robertson; seconded David Maggs); Gil Ben Shlomo (nominated by David Maggs; seconded Bruce Robertson), Felipe Wouk (nominated by Joe Laus; seconded David Maggs). All were elected by unanimous voice vote. Bruce Robertson reported that Sandra van der Woerdt had agreed to remain as Secretary/Treasurer and that Kangmoon Seo had agreed to become President Elect. David Maggs will become President and Bruce will become Immediate Past President as dictated by policy.
9. Bruce Robertson and David Maggs provided some background on the notice of motion to change the bylaws such that members could be elected to the Board without serving the

currently required 2 year minimum. This notice of motion was described in full in the agenda and had been posted in The Globe and on the ISVO website for some time. A short discussion followed. The motion (unchanged from the notice of motion) was then moved by David Maggs, seconded by Maurice Roze, and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

10. Bruce Robertson explained that the WSAVA had sent a request to all Associate Members asking that we endorse their pain guidelines. Bruce had emailed this in advance to all members of the Board. David Maggs noted that he thought that ocular pain was not listed specifically and that, as such, a specific endorsement should likely not be controversial for us. Peter Bedford recommended that the guidelines be made available to the general membership via the website. Gil Ben Shlomo will do so and we will allow member comment for 30 days before Bruce Robertson conveys a reply to the WSAVA.
11. Bruce Robertson then led a discussion with all present on the future of the ISVO, in particular our sources of funding, links with other associations/colleges, regularity and locations of future scientific and business meetings, etc. The following general topics were all considered:
  - a. How often should we align with WSAVA?
  - b. Should we have a business meeting more commonly than biennially (at ECVO/ACVO)?
  - c. How often should we host a scientific meeting?
  - d. Claudio Peruccio spoke to the origin of ISVO and how its role as a continuing education group has been largely outdated because the colleges are doing this so well. Our difficulty arranging a scientific meeting in collaboration with the ECVO this week was good evidence of that. He now sees the ISVO as a link among those with an ophthalmology interest all around the globe. He wonders if the ISVO should continue to sponsor the Magrane lecture at the ACVO and ECVO meetings (maybe in an alternating pattern). Claudio also suggested that ISVO membership might be best approached as a membership benefit of the ACVO/ECVO/AiCVO/CLOVE/Australian College/etc.?
  - e. Gil Ben Shlomo pointed out that this would need to be carefully packaged so as to appeal to the ACVO/ECVO/AiCVO/CLOVE/Australian College/etc.
  - f. Bruce Robertson suggested that we need to promote ourselves as an important link across the globe especially to currently less well-served areas. He suggested that we might be able to appeal to the major colleges as a means of "outreach".
  - g. David Maggs proposed that as President, he lead this discussion among the board members and that more frequent meetings of the ISVO board may be useful. Those present agreed and so it was proposed that as many of the Board as possible should meet at ACVO in 2015.
  - h. It was similarly agreed that we could delay a decision regarding the site and date for the next ISVO Biennial General Meeting be delayed until the board had decided on answers to many of the issues raised above.
12. David Maggs presented Bruce Robertson with a plaque and thanked him for his service to the ISVO.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

**ISVO Financial Report 2013-2014**  
Presented at Biennial General Meeting (Helsinki)

	31-Dec-13		31-Dec-14	
	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit
First Northern Bank	\$42,176.43		\$21,553.27	
First Northern Bank CD	\$0.00		\$20,010.03	
PayPal Cash	\$741.82		\$1,789.00	
Opening Balance Equity		\$41,794.84		\$42,918.25
Biennial Conference Income		\$5,909.16		\$0.00
Exhibitors fees		\$8,380.00		\$0.00
Interest Income		\$11.82		\$10.03
Membership Dues		\$1,165.00		\$1,150.00
Scholarship Income		\$7,063.00		\$7,000.00
Advertising	\$2,036.90		\$0.00	
Bank Fees	\$213.38		\$122.82	
Legal Fees	\$1,921.51		\$0.00	
Contributions	\$668.00		\$669.00	
Fees	\$5.00		\$0.00	
Insurance	\$633.00		\$694.00	
Meals and Entertainment	\$3,554.06		\$140.16	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Scholarships	\$4,000.00		\$6,000.00	
Taxes	\$750.00		\$100.00	
Conference expenses	\$7,523.72		\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,223.82</b>	<b>\$64,323.82</b>	<b>\$51,078.28</b>	<b>\$51,078.28</b>

Comments:

1. Overall cash on hand remains stable at just over 40k dollars
2. Thanks got to Bruce Robertson who tightly managed our budget at the last Biennial meeting in Auckland NZ, ensuring a profit of almost \$1200 despite the distant location. In 2015, since we were unable to negotiate a scientific program of our own and because we were not in association with the WSAVA (which provides most conference services to affiliates such as the ISVO at no cost or a very low cost), we can expect a loss.
3. Dues remain stable but extremely low. The introduction of online registration has greatly reduced administrative effort and made registering and renewing easy. Gil Ben Shlomo is to be commended for establishing this as well as the entire website and Facebook page at minimal costs. However, for future viability of the Society, a membership drive remains a critical goal.
4. Rationalization of the Society's legal and taxation situation is now complete:
  - a. We are now chartered as a Californian nonprofit corporation.

- b. We have been granted full tax exempt status both in California and federally.
- c. Our Bylaws are now approved and consistent with all requirements to be granted nonprofit, tax exempt status.
- d. We have filed tax returns deferred until this status was achieved.
- e. We have purchased insurance to protect the officers and directors
- f. Given the magnitude of these tasks, we have done this with very minimal legal and accounting fees (< \$4,000), and have manageable ongoing insurance costs (~\$700 per annum)
- g. The Acrivet scholarship has become an approximately cost-neutral and highly meritorious venture. Acrivet has generously committed to an annual contribution of \$7,000 and the ACVO has raised their commitment to 3 journal subscriptions per year. This has permitted us to offer 3 scholarships at \$2,500 each annually (up from the original offer of \$2,000). The \$500 excess and all administrative costs will be borne by the ISVO

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Maggs', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

David Maggs

**The Biannual Business Meeting of the International Society of Veterinary Ophthalmologists** to be held in Helsinki, Finland on 29th May 2015.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The last two years have simply flown by, since the ISVO's last biannual business meeting held in Auckland New Zealand in March 2013. At that major international veterinary event held in conjunction with the 2013 WSAVA Congress, the ISVO staged its own two day pre-Congress program with a variety of interesting lecture presentations, from the three WSAVA Ophthalmology stream speakers (Eric Ledbetter, David Maggs, Hans Westermeyer), members of the ISVO Board and Fellows of the ANZCVS Ophthalmology Chapter. Our guest speaker for the Magrane Memorial Lecture was Professor Anthony Molteno from Otago University School of Medicine, who spoke with great enthusiasm on the history of surgical intervention in human glaucoma patients and the development of valved glaucoma implants. While overall attendance at this excellent regional meeting was somewhat hampered by its inevitable antipodean remoteness, the group in attendance enjoyed a great selection of scientific papers, and also socially at a very memorable conference dinner on the Auckland waterfront.

At the Auckland Meeting it was moved and passed that ISVO adopt a new set of Bylaws that would not only provide a strong foundation on which the Society could continue to grow, but also so that its books of account could be maintained in perpetuity within the United States and registered in the State of California as a Not for Profit organisation, thereby qualifying for tax free status within the USA. Credit for all of that preparation work was due to our then Treasurer David Maggs and the team of legal advisors he was able to assemble, and while moving the acceptance motion seemed almost an anticlimax after the months of collaboration and consensus required of the ISVO Committee, in the two year since then we have found ourselves highly reliant on the strict provisions and the protections built in to this important founding document – something that it is fair to say we are still coming to terms with in the lead-up to the 2015 biannual meeting, making sure that the election of officers proceeds in every way according to the Rules.

The past two years has not seen a lot of ground-breaking international developments at Board level, but we have been very busy nevertheless. Applications for the first round of ISVO-Acrivet Scholarships were called in early 2013 and it wasn't long before the Board's appointed selection committee had chosen two promising candidates from quite an impressive starting field. I think I can say that every member of the Board has had great faith in the potential of this joint initiative between ISVO and the principal sponsors Acrivet - S&V Technologies, and largely due to the consistent encouragement from the Head of Acrivet's Veterinary Division Ingeborg Fromberg and also the planning and support from the mentors and host institutions for these initial awardees (Sandra van der Woerd at AMC New York and the team led by David Maggs at UC Davis), we were pleased to receive glowing reports and sincere thanks back from Drs. Cheryl Tay (Singapore) and Caio Guerreiro (Brazil). The format of the Scholarship award (essentially a four week self-motivated externship/study period at an institution of excellence, part-funded by a US\$2,000 cash grant from the principal sponsors Acrivet S&V Technologies, with the generous addition of a complimentary one-year subscription to Veterinary Ophthalmology

donated by the ACVO Directors) has needed only minor adjustment to refine the application criteria and the timing of the awards, with the result that two more Scholarships were able to be awarded in 2014, again to the value of US\$2,000 plus complimentary subscriptions to the VO Journal. Having established due process and seeing the positive career-boosting effect these awards were having for the recipients and also in their home countries, for the 2015 round it was decided that in future and provided there were applicants of sufficient merit presenting in each round, up to three awards of a cash value of US\$2,500 each could be offered in any one calendar year. Applications have been called for the first round for 2015, with two awards to be announced at the ECVO Congress in Helsinki this month. It is planned that a second round of applications will be called in July-August, hopefully leading to a third award for 2015 being made at ACVO Annual Meeting at Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, in early October.

On behalf of the ISVO Directors and each of the six successful practitioner awardees to date (their names and countries of origin are listed in the Secretary's Report), may I express the ISVO's sincere gratitude to the ACVO for its continued gesture of support in providing complimentary one-year subscriptions to the Veterinary Ophthalmology Journal; to Ingeborg Fromberg and her colleagues at Acrivet for their extremely generous sponsorship (derived as we understand from a small profit percentage from the sale of canine IOLs and other Acrivet products internationally); and especially to the team members at the hard working teaching institutions and specialist practices who agree to accept externship candidates, at times likely to be from a third world country and not necessarily language-confident or fully conversant with the descriptive terminology of veterinary ophthalmology.

Claudio Peruccio's editorial achievements with the ISVO Newsletter 'The Globe' continue to surpass our expectations in every way. He manages to produce three fully informative regular issues yearly, with the capacity for a special mailing when events demand that (such as the one in memory of the late Dr Keith Barnett) and he never fails to make each new issue a mine of valuable information on upcoming scientific meetings, recent meeting abstracts, news items and some very interesting historical insights such as his series of Interviews with a selection of our more senior retired colleagues around the World. The Globe has to rate as an outstanding veterinary specialist society newsletter, and everyone on its lengthy current mailing list surely benefits from this added international perspective. We would just like to see a few more of those folk remember to renew their subscriptions – now so easy to do on-line through the ISVO web page [www.isvo.info](http://www.isvo.info) .

Working away quietly in the background, since 2013 we have seen the launch of the ISVO website as our on-line conduit to members and prospective members, and also a Facebook page which is seeing increasing use as an added 'diagnostic tool' especially among those veterinarians who may not have access to large enough mainstream case volumes to be sure that an apparent abnormal variation is clinically significant as a threat to vision, or not. Dr Gil Ben-Shlomo at Iowa State deserves our very great thanks for the work that he has put into both of these ventures, and we look forward to being able to continue to draw on his expertise on developing IT as a valuable teaching and communication medium.

I cannot conclude this report without placing on record my earnest appreciation to that group of very dedicated veterinarians who have volunteered service as ISVO Directors and

past Committee members. Under the new ByLaws, appointed directors are asked to serve for a period of four years, so therefore a regular Board strength of six or seven (which can be increased if the need arises) allows us to maintain optimum continuity by rotating due retirements on a two-year cycle, to coincide with or biannual business meeting timetable. The retiring ISVO Directors in 2015 are Dr Bob Munger (USA) and Dr Jose Laus (Brazil), and we thank them both for their many years of dedicated service and applied wisdom - they are indeed the 'rocks' on which this veterinary specialty has been built.

I owe my personal gratitude to the continuing Board members who have all been unstinting in the support they have provided to me in this role and also personally over the last two years. To our Secretary / Treasurer Sandra van der Woerdt, President-elect David Maggs and Past President Peter Bedford in particular, each of whom has helped me through some difficult working periods in their own personal way, I will be forever in your debt. Thank you all, and I wish the ISVO every future success as it continues to find worthwhile ways to build strong relationships internationally, thereby strengthening what we all strive to do as veterinary ophthalmologists – in the world of animal vision that still has much to teach us.

Bruce Robertson  
ISVO President 2013-15

Sydney, Australia.

ISVO : Agenda for the Biennial General Meeting on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 HELSINKI Finland.

(to be conducted under the By Laws approved at the last ISVO Biennial General Meeting)

1. Welcome by the President
2. Adoption of the Agenda, with Apologies from absent members
3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (10<sup>th</sup> March 2013 - Auckland, New Zealand)
4. Executive Reports :
  - President (Bruce Robertson)
  - Secretary / Treasurer (Sandra van der Woerd)
  - ISVO Website Manager (Gil Ben-Shlomo)
5. Nominations Committee Report (Bruce Robertson)  
(to confirm those eligible to be nominated to vacant Board positions)
6. Election of Officers
  - President (*the President Elect is duly nominated*)
  - Secretary/Treasurer (*the present incumbent is duly nominated*)
  - Three Board positions, due to be filled on rotation
  - President Elect (from the 7 current Board Members)
7. Next Meeting Venue (Discussion on the possible options for 2017)
8. Notice of Motion  

‘That the Executive proposes a mechanism subject to Board approval, by which the ACVO, ECVO, AiCVO, ANZCVS Ophthalmology Chapter and other approved voluntary-membership societies may be offered pro-rata group membership of the ISVO, in return for existing and future benefits of ISVO membership being extended to their currently financial members.’
9. Items of General Business
  - Elimination of 2 year membership requirement for ISVO officer positions
  - Response to the WSAVA’s request that affiliated organisations agree to endorse the WSAVA’s Global Pain Council Guidelines (circulated to Board Members 19-05-15)
10. Confirm the Venue and Expected Date for the next Biennial General Meeting.
11. Close of Meeting

## Secretary/Treasurer report

- The ISVO continues to support the journal “veterinary ophthalmology”
- The new bylaws were adopted and are in effect
- The ISVO- Acrivet scholarship with a complimentary year subscription to Veterinary Ophthalmology donated by the ACVO was awarded to the following applicants:
  - Caio C. Guerreiro, March 2013
  - Cheryl Tay, March 2013
  - Edgardo Unson, April 2014
  - Agata Grudzien, October 2014
  - Negar Hamzianpour, May 2015
  - Homer Kuo, May 2015
- An additional scholarship will be awarded prior to the ACVO meeting in October of 2015

Respectfully submitted

Alexandra van der Woerd

Secretary/treasurer ISVO