



IFESS Officers:

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Manfred Bijak

Vice President:
Jane Burridge

Secretary:
Glen Davis

Treasurer:
Thierry Keller

Board of Directors:

Maura Whittaker
Martin Schüttler
Ken Yoshida
Milos Popovic
Vivian Mushahwar
Brian Smith
Julie Armstrong
Andy Hoffer
Dejan Popovic

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Dear IFESS Member:

On behalf of IFESS, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year! I hope that 2008 was a prosperous and enjoyable year for you and your families!

We welcome three newly elected members on our Board of Directors: Maura Whittaker, Martin Schüttler and Ken Yoshida. They will join the board for the next 3 years. I wish to thank the outgoing members of the Board who served us so ably these past three years, Thomas Stieglitz, Janis Daly and Kazonuri Seki.

In September 2008 we held our Thirteenth Annual Conference in Freiburg, Germany. Thomas Stieglitz and Martin Schüttler in cooperation with the DGBMT, Univ. of Freiburg, IMTEK and VDE did a marvelous job and prepared a great conference in a lovely city. The organization was perfect and we had interesting keynote lectures and excellent presentations showing the ongoing development in the field of FES and adjacent areas. Additional value was added for the presenters since all papers were, after an exhausting review process, published as a Supplement in "Biomedizinische Technik".

Paul Meadows will add the full length proceedings to the IFESS CDROM.

Prior to the conference we had a FESAir Workshop organized by Maura Whittaker that focused on the use of FES in daily practice and addressed especially clinicians and therapist. Further workshops were organized by Jane Burridge, Martin Schuettler and Milos Popovic.

My specials thank goes to all people who made IFESS 2008 such a great conference!

A big step forward for IFESS was the founding of the first National IFESS chapter. The Chapter represents the UK and the Republic of Ireland (UKRI) and has the specific objectives to not only support FES research, but to translate research into clinical practice and develop stronger collaboration between engineers, clinicians and especially neuroscientists. The Chapter was launched at the INS meeting in Cardiff UK in Nov 2008 and the following people have now been elected to the Board of Directors: President: Dr Paul Taylor, Secretary: Christine Singleton and Treasurer: Prof Ken Hunt. The following people were elected as Ordinary Board members: Prof Nick Donaldson, Prof Jane Burridge, Dr Lawrence Kenny and Dr Anand Pandyan. The first meeting of the UKRI Chapter will be in Birmingham on 20th March 2009 in conjunction with the FES User group meeting. The Chapter also plans to adopt the FES sports day in Glasgow later in the year. I would like to thank all the IFESS members who contributed to launching this exciting new venture and we look forward to setting-up similar National and Regional Chapters across the world.

About another big step forward reported Paul Taylor and Ian Swain, namely that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) have now published their guidance for FES for dropped foot. The guidance supports the use of FES within the NHS and applies to all patient groups who have dropped foot due to an upper motor neuron lesions. Finally a new technique, lots of people so hard worked on, found its way into clinical practice.

More information at our website http://home.ifess.org/news_niceguidance

Coming to the [IFESS web site](http://home.ifess.org): It got a new face and was completely reorganised. We are now using the CMS system Drupal combined with the integrated membership management system CIVICRM. Serviceability should be improved and membership handling simplified. We are now ready to put extra values to our website like member areas, surveys, blogs etc. To reflect the ongoing in FES and the activities of IFESS a "living" web site would be of great value. The site is still under construction so every piece of help as well as new ideas are more than welcome. If you are, i.e. willing to adopt a section or a topic please don't hesitate to contact me.

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As a result of our on-going relationship with the International Neuromodulation Society (INS), the Journal, Neuromodulation, is for the seventh year the Official Journal of IFESS and is available to both members of INS and IFESS at the same (low) subscription rates.

Unfortunately Neuromodulation failed to get indexed last year, but as good message, it increased its impact factor to 1.353!

Currently Elliot Krames is working to improve the journals structure and we support him as good as we can so the journal will get indexed at the earliest possible.

Please consider to subscribe our official journal and also to publish your papers therein.
(<http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=1094-7159>)

Finally let me remind you that we will have our 14^h Annual Conference titled "Finding evidence of recovery by stimulation" in Seoul, Korea, organized by Young-Hee Lee, Bum-Suk Lee and Gon Khang.

Please visit the [IFESS Website](http://ifess2009.kr/) for details or directly <http://ifess2009.kr/>

Thank you for maintaining your support of our Society, I hope to see you all at our Annual Conference in Seoul!

Sincerely,



Manfred Bijak, President