Announcement

The establishment of the International Functional Neurology Society (IFNS)

Today, more than twenty years after the founding of the journal *Functional Neurology*, and in the presence of a constant evolution of biomedical technologies, information technology, and telemedicine, the time is felt to be ripe for the creation of a group of specialists devoted to this very broad and non-sectorial field – a group that will unite common interests, embracing speculative intellectual areas, such as those of neuroethics and neurophilosophy, while also accommodating the more strictly clinical disciplines.

In short, there has emerged a common need to create a point of contact between the multi-faceted neurosciences. Hence our decision to establish a new society that, working around and through the journal *Functional Neurology*, can rise to the challenges of neuroscience research in the 21st century. We are therefore proud to announce the birth of the “International Functional Neurology Society” (IFNS), which has chosen Rome as its headquarters and *Functional Neurology* as its official journal.

The main aim of the IFNS is to promote research and studies in the field of “functional and behavioural neurosciences”, but its purpose is also to provide training opportunities, to update its members, and to coordinate their efforts.

The society will also encourage the rapid spread of new advances in the neurosciences, wherever these are achieved, and favour, on a scientific and practical level, the growth of knowledge. This it will do through the institution of study grants and awards to acknowledge the scientific achievements of promising young researchers, and also by supporting their efforts to publish their work.

The IFNS also aims to establish bi- and/or multilateral relations for the exchanging of information and for promoting collaboration between scholars and scientific institutions and associations whose objectives are complementary to, or in some way linked to, its own, contributing to the development of study protocols and guidelines. It will also organise meetings, symposia, round tables and congresses at Italian and international level, with the purpose of debating and developing the whole area of the functional and behavioural neurosciences; it will support the publication of congress proceedings and of scientific papers of particular interest to scholars and experts in the field of the neurosciences.

The governing body of the IFNS will be its executive board, made up of the founders together with affiliated members co-opted by the founding members. The IFNS is open to anyone drawn to the field of the functional and behavioural neurosciences who is intellectually motivated in this area, including specialists in other, neuroscience-related disciplines. The members will meet periodically to review and define the state-of-the-art in their branches, and also to form study groups in specific fields. The IFNS will organise an annual conference to allow its members to discuss topics of common interest.

As the official journal of the IFNS, *Functional Neurology* is intended to be a meeting point and also a point of reference for the members of the society, as well as a valuable vehicle for the publication of scientific papers relating to the neurosciences.

It is our sincere hope that this new society will soon find its niche among the existing scientific associations and societies, and be able to make its own contribution to the valuable work that they do.

*The Editor-in-Chief*

Stefano Bastianello