

Info.

JNS Online General Assembly

The Japan Neuroscience Society

President: Michisuke Yuzaki

Director of General Affairs: Yoshikazu Isomura

The online general meeting this year was considered a success, with many members participating and providing valuable feedback. We have addressed questions and comments received at the general meeting as detailed below. We appreciate your approval of the procedures needed to become a general incorporated association, which was one of the most important items on the agenda.

We also appreciate your cooperation in conducting the academic domain survey required for the corporation's operation. We are committed to implementing the feedback we have received and moving forward to make the Japan Neuroscience Society more open to diversity. We look forward to receiving feedback from our members in the future.

FY2022 Report on the JNS General Assembly

Date and Time : August 19 to 30, 2022

Location : Online

Participants: 1,172 (i.e., the number of people who viewed the agenda materials)

Agenda Materials

Votes to approve minor changes to agenda materials: 1,172

Votes against: 0

Majority of the participants approved.

Agenda Item 1 Reports on accounting

Votes to approve this agenda: 1,170

Votes against: 2

Since the majority of participants provided approval, this agenda item was approved (Article XXII, Bylaws of the JNS).

Opinions from members

- I want an explanation regarding some activities, such as Industry-Academia Partnership and Diversity.
- We should significantly lower the membership fees if 100 million yen are carried forward.
- The amount carried forward is over 100 million yen. Is this amount appropriate? This would depend on whether the amount is for the future development of neuroscience in Japan or an exchange fund for current members.

- I have reviewed the contents of the report and found them to be correct. Thank you for compiling the detailed budget condition report.
- I would like to be able to choose to be charged for the fiscal year (April-March) as well as January-December for the annual membership fees.
- I am not certain of the appropriate amount, but is it necessary to carry forward over 100 million yen?

Explanation by Treasurer Yamanaka

Thank you for understanding the budget condition. The JNS budget in the fiscal year 2021 ended in the black due to an increase in the membership income. "Industry-Academia Partnership and Diversity" was aimed at the expenditure for the symposium and luncheon-seminar related to these topics in the annual meeting; however, these events were not held in 2021.

Regarding the retention of assets annually, we believe this is necessary as a safeguard for the unpredictable large deficit in the annual meeting's budget, which usually totals more than 100 million yen. For the annual membership fee, the fiscal year will be revised from January-December to April-March, during the movement towards the general incorporated association.

We will maintain efforts to rationalize costs and keep a healthy JNS budget; therefore, we kindly request your understanding and continued support.

Agenda Item 2 Revision of the by-laws for the transition to a general incorporated association

Votes to approve this agenda: 1,171

Votes against: 1

Since more than two-thirds of the participants approved this agenda item, the revision of the bylaws was approved (Article XXV, Bylaws of the JNS).

Opinions from members

- I thought it was unclear what research topics would be included in the following categories. In particular, what would be included in category B. Systems & Information Neuroscience? What does Information Neuroscience include? A. Basic Neuroscience, B. Systems & Information Neuroscience, and C. Clinical & Pathological Neuroscience.
- I understand that at the general incorporated association, the current association will be dissolved and then the new association will take over the functions of the current association; however, I do not understand the reason for the "dissolution;" thus, I would appreciate a short explanation regarding this point.
- I believe that the incorporation of the society is necessary to reduce the miscellaneous workload of active researchers. However, I think it is necessary to ensure fairness and transparency so that the corporation does not become a mere place of descent or reflect only the opinions of a few people.
- Another society (a public interest-incorporated association) is experiencing difficulty in setting up a compensation system for the Board of Directors (10,000 yen annually). I would like to see a system that can be resolved by the Board of Councilors or the Board of Directors as much as possible.
- Regarding the Academic Domain, I feel that the distinction between A. Basic Neuroscience and B. Systems/Information Neuroscience remains unclear. Specifically, I believe that research that explores basic mechanisms of the nervous system from a Systems/Information perspective is important and flourishing; however, it is not clear whether A or B should be selected in such cases. In this respect, I personally feel that the current panel's classification of (i) Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, (ii) Systems Neuroscience, (iii) Clinical and Pathological Neuroscience, and (iv) Other Neuroscience is clearer ("Other Neuroscience" notwithstanding).

What is the reason or purpose for the change from "Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience" to "Basic Neuroscience?" (I have no objection to the change from "systems neuroscience" to "systems and information neuroscience.")

- I think "not less than five years" in Article VII is too short. The current term may be sufficient.

Explanation by Director Isomura, Director of General Affairs

After the transition to a general incorporated association, we will aim to manage the society in a balanced manner by taking advantage of the academic domain system. The previous panel classification had to be reviewed because multilevel research has become more common and the treatment of others should be improved. The name of the new academic domain was determined after repeated consideration by the Board of Directors and various committees, including the feedback we received for our membership survey. To avoid preconceptions or misguidance, specific examples were not provided. We understand that some of you may be in a position to make a difficult decision, but we hope that you will consider the name not from the perspective of the name itself, but from the perspective of the position from which you would like to contribute to the management and development of the society. Please note that voters in the councilor and director elections will vote for all candidates for all academic domains. As a general rule, we have established a minimum of five years of membership as a matter of qualification for councilors and directors. This is to encourage young researchers who have experience in academic societies and who will lead the next generation to take an active role.

The general incorporated association will be established in the spring of 2023 and will coexist with the current voluntary association for a while, gradually transferring its operations, members, and assets. After the transition is complete, the dissolution of the current association will be declared, and a final report will be delivered by the liquidator. By transitioning to a general incorporated association, the society will legally put in place its articles of incorporation to further ensure fairness and transparency. The councilors, who are active researchers, and the director and chairman of the board of directors will manage the society without compensation; hence, it is unlikely to become a so-called "descent from heaven" organization. We ask for the understanding and cooperation of all our members in realizing the transition to a general incorporated association.

Survey on Academic Domain

A. Basic Neuroscience 678

B. Systems & Information Neuroscience 261

C. Clinical & Pathological Neuroscience 233

Explanation by Director Isomura, Director of General Affairs

The percentages of academic domains (A.57.8%, B.22.3%, 19.9%) calculated from this survey will be used to calculate the number of seats to be allocated to academic domains in the board member and councilor elections.

Activity Report 1 **Reports on General Affairs****Opinions from members**

- I support the move to incorporate.
- In recent years, the society's membership appears to have somewhat declined. We hope this is a transitory effect of COVID-19. Also, it is possible that the field of neuroscience has fully matured and is now shrinking. We may need to pay attention to future situation.
- Declining membership seems to be a problem for many societies, and if our society is thinking of taking action, it would be good to inform the membership at large.

Explanation by Director Isomura, Director of General Affairs

Thank you for your comments regarding membership trends. The Board of Directors is constantly analyzing membership trends, including the recent declining birthrate and the impact of the coronavirus disaster, and is establishing various plans to help secure membership. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to share them with us.

Activity Report 2 **Report on the 45th Annual Meeting (Neuro2022)****Opinions from members**

- Congratulations on the success of the event despite COVID-19 and the typhoon.
- I know it must have been difficult with the resurgence of COVID-19 and the typhoon that hit the area, but I would like to thank all the organizers for their hard work.

- It has been a long time since I have attended a full-scale meeting, and it was very enjoyable and meaningful. I am sure it took great effort to hold the meeting during the coronavirus disaster. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone involved.
- I attended the meeting on-site. Thank you very much for holding an on-site meeting after a long absence. I know it must have been difficult to deal with matters such as infection control measures, but I think it was efficiently handled. However, it would have been delightful if the bus schedules were more flexible (e.g., if they continued to operate even at one bus per hour). In any case, I know it is difficult to hold a hybrid event, but the on-site event was very meaningful. Thank you very much!
- I believe the registration fee was too expensive.
- For those who belong to departments with a two-semester system, the end of July to early August falls during the examination period of the first semester; thus, please reconsider the timing of future meetings.
- I attended this year's conference online only. Although I could not directly feel the local energy, the hybrid event seemed to be a success with questions from the online audience.
- Ideally, I would have liked an on-demand option for viewing programs other than the plenary lectures. Although it is essential to obtain the consent of the speakers due to copyright issues, I would appreciate it if you could continue to implement an on-demand viewing system.
- I deem that connecting basic and clinical societies was a very good idea at Neuro2022. This will help young and mid-career scientists by bridging the gap between basic and clinical science, which can only be done by the Japan Neuroscience Society. Particularly, I hope it will become a platform for translation and reverse translation. Specifically, I would like to see an interaction among laboratories and facilities that conduct these activities.
- I was concerned that there was a plan to give away Amazon gift certificates to all the survey respondents of the meeting participants. This is an academic event that is operated by collecting registration fees, which are often paid with taxpayer-funded research funds. If we can offer a reward that has a cash value, would it not be better to reduce the registration fee by the value of the gift certificate?
- It was a nice program; however, by looking at the

general report, it seems that the membership of society is expanding slowly; therefore, it is better to promote extensively overseas such as offering junior membership or some special membership free of cost for 2-3 years, as well doubling the travel grants for overseas members.

Explanation by Director Doya, President of the 45th Annual Meeting

We are very glad that many participants highly valued the opportunity to talk face-to-face including participants from abroad, after 3 years since the 2019 conference. We appreciate the participants' cooperation regarding our anti-COVID-19 measures, including health check every morning.

We set the conference date to late June to early July to avoid the typical typhoon season in Okinawa. It turned out the typhoon emerged nearby, but fortunately it did not grow much so that we could complete all the programs.

Shuttle buses between the nearest Omoro-machi monorail station were running once every hour even during mid-days, but we should have announced the availability of public bus services to and from Naha City and airport.

On-demand streaming was available after the conference for the plenary, special, award, and educational lectures as well as the symposia, upon approval of the speakers. We ask the next conference organizers to consider extending that to regular oral presentations as well.

We also convey to the future conference organizers to enrich the events linking basic research to clinical applications by taking advantage of joint conferences, and increasing the support for young international participants.

The fee for regular members was 20,000 JPY for early and 24,000 JPY for on-site registrations, lower than the 2021 conference in Kobe. Please understand that a hybrid conference incurs more cost than an on-site only or an online only conference.

The appropriateness of providing Amazon gift cards for survey respondents will be discussed at the JNS conference committee.

Activity Report 3 Report on the 46th Annual Meeting (2023)

Opinions from members

- I would like an explanation of the meeting theme, "Towards the Galaxy" and "Neuroscience," as it is difficult to connect the meaning.(1)
- We look forward to the event in Sendai. Thank you for your hard work. (2)
- We do not know what the global situation will be next year, but we hope that it will be a meaningful meeting. (3)
- There should be few specific scheduling for networking (international) programs during this annual meeting, even to showcase brilliant researches from Japan. It will only be successful if more and more international participants will be present. (4)
- Due to the MEXT's 15-session requirement, university faculty and students have found it difficult to attend conferences such as Neuro2022 that are held on weekdays when university classes are in session, so we would like you to consider the dates of the conferences.(5)

Explanation by Director Kobayashi, President of the 46th Annual Meeting

(1) Since the timing of this meeting coincides with the Sendai Tanabata Festival, we hope that the field of neuroscience will continue to produce as many brilliant research results as the countless stars shining in the galaxy. We will also pursue various useful activities that can lead to such results. Here in Sendai, we will promote a wide variety of activities, such as domestic and international information gathering, personnel interaction, international collaboration, interdisciplinary collaboration—including collaboration between basic and clinical research communities—as well as support for the activities of various researchers in consideration of diversity, the fostering of young researchers, and support for the application of research results for the benefit of society. This point is explained in the greeting of the meeting. (<https://neuroscience2023.jnss.org/en/greeting.html>)

(2) Thank you very much for your encouragement.

(3) While giving attention to the COVID-19 situation, we will determine the appropriate method of organizing the meeting. We will take into account the possibility of stimulating interactions among participants onsite as much as possible, but we will also consider an online participation from the perspective of infection control.

(4) We will try to increase the number of international participants by planning the plenary lecture, special lecture, symposiums, and other events, which will fascinate not only the Japanese participants but also international participants.

(5) We will inform the Board of Directors regarding the dates of future meetings so that they can be considered in the future.

Activity Report 4 **Report from the Annual Meeting Committee**

Opinions from members

- I see that regional events will continue to be held in Fukuoka and Sapporo. I am looking forward to it. I suppose there may be a problem with accommodations, but I think it would be good to have the event not only in big cities, but also in hot spring resorts on occasion.
- I am a member of the annual meeting committee and was not aware of the 2024 and 2025 conventions. I apologize if I have missed the committee.

Explanation by Annual Meeting Committee Chair Ohtsuka

In the past years, we have tried to avoid concentrating the convention venues in urban areas as much as possible. However, due to the size of the venues, the venues themselves tend to be in the same locations. On the other hand, since the construction of relatively large facilities (e.g., the venue in Okinawa this time) is underway in areas other than the Tokyo metropolitan area, we believe that our options will expand in the future.

The annual meeting committee did not discuss the 2024 and 2025 meetings in particular. The decision will be made by the Executive Committee and then by the Board of Directors. In the future, we hope to hold committee meetings as necessary to reflect the opinions of the annual meeting committee.

Activity Report 5 **Report of Neuroscience Research**

Opinions from members

- It would be good to have a comparison with similar journals.
- I wonder if the decline in submission is common to other journals. If not, we'll need to think about assessment and revision.

- Given the small number of papers published, we are sorry to hear of the difficulties in managing the issue. In the special issues, I see some interesting review articles thanks to your efforts. If you are going to continue publishing in the future, I think you need to make the journal a little more prestigious and devise ways to increase the number of papers viewed.
- With all due respect, I would like to give my opinions. Compared to other journals, the number of contributors is uneven, yet the number of citations has not increased. The value of the journal has not increased. I think that the editorial process has a weakness that makes it different from other journals. It is necessary to increase the number of experienced editors and to raise the percentage of young neuroscientists by half who can write their own articles.
- Although this is not a comment on your report, I would like to ask you to make a special effort to improve the quality of peer review in this journal, because in recent years, many studies in the field of neuroscience have been published in leading journals that are flawed in terms of scientific logic and the setting of research conditions such as control groups.
- I have reviewed the report from Elsevier. It appears that the Impact Factor for 2021 is decreasing from the previous year. I think it would be better to examine the reason for the decrease in IF in the midst of a large number of journals that increased from 2020 to 2021. Of course, higher is not necessarily better, but it reflects the fact that there are many papers that are not cited or not worthy of citation. I am a Managing Editor of another journal, and with the cooperation of Elsevier, the editorial committee is reviewing past papers to improve the IF, an easy-to-understand evaluation index. I do not know the situation of the editorial board, so this may be a misguided point, but at least the situation has not been communicated to the end members. I think it is necessary to discuss the prospects of Neuroscience research. Thank you very much for your consideration.
- Why has the IF not risen much? Psychiatry & Clinical Neuroscience, an English-language journal of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology, has risen over the past few years, with an IF=12 for the year 2021.

Explanation by Journal Director Kamiguchi, Editor-in-Chief of Neuroscience Research

Although the figures for 2022 reported at JNS Online General Assembly are those for halfway through the year, the number of papers submitted to Neuroscience Research (NSR) has been steadily increasing. The Impact Factor and other indicators are on an upward trend in the mid-to-long term, but as has been pointed out, it is the responsibility of NSR Editorial Board to move forward with measures to further improve these indicators and increase the international influence of this journal. In recent years, the acceptance rate has ranged from 15% to 20% due to stricter peer review, but we will reexamine our editorial policy, including whether to further reduce the acceptance rate to improve the quality of published papers, or whether to give priority to papers in fields with high citation expectations, etc. Effective January 2023, NSR editors will be extensively replaced and a new Editorial Board will be formed to strive for the development of NSR. We would appreciate the continued support from JNS members.

