

Agenda ICBEN Business Meeting 2021
Tuesday, June 15, 8:00 pm CET (via Zoom)

Invitees:

Officers	Mathias Basner (President), Mark Brink (Vice President), Sabine Janssen (Secretary), Stephen Stansfeld (Past President)
Team chairs and co-chairs	David Welch, Ravi Reddy (Team 1: Noise-induced hearing loss) Annelies Bockstael, Sarah Verhulst (Team 2 - Noise and communication) Kerstin Persson Waye, Elise van Kempen (Team 3 - Non-auditory effects of noise) Sabine Schlittmeier, John Marsh (Team 4 - Effects of noise on performance and behaviour) Gunn-Marit Aasvang, Michael Smith (Team 5 - Effects of noise on sleep) Dirk Schreckenber, Jiyoung Hong (Team 6 - Community response to noise) Norm Broner (Team 7 - Low frequency noise and vibration) Mikael Ögren, Adrian Fuente, (Team 8 - Interactions with other agents and contextual factors) Truls Gjestland, Natalia Sizov (Team 9 - Noise policy and economics)
Members at Large	Irene van Kamp, Lex Brown, Larry Finegold, Christian Giguere, Peter Lercher, Anthony Brammer
Past Presidents	Gerd Jansen, Jerry Tobias, Alain Muzet†, Birgitta Berglund, Barbara Griefahn, Soames Job
Conference Bidders	Goran Belojevic, Maria Albin

Topics

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers (Mathias Basner)
 In line with ICBEN constitution, a new President, Vice-president and Secretary need to be elected, since all current officers have now served two terms. Important: Every ICBEN member can run for any of the open positions at this business meeting. Mathias Basner will briefly introduce the candidates, who will then be given the opportunity to present themselves. The new positions to be filled are voted on in the following order: President, Vice-President, Secretary. Charlotte Clark was voted for the position of Secretary by an online poll earlier, which needs to be confirmed at the Business Meeting.
5. Discussion about potential reorganization of ICBEN team structure (Mark Brink)
6. Discussion on election of Team chairs (Mathias Basner)
7. Report on past activities (Mathias Basner)
8. Website (Mark Brink)
9. Report on ICBEN 2021 Conference organization (Maria Albin)
10. Setting the timing of the next conference. Proposal is to hold the next conference in 2023 as fitting in the original cycle of every third year, instead of in 2024 which would be three years from the present conference. The constitution reads "ARTICLE VI. Meetings: Section 1. Congress. The ICBEN shall sponsor and conduct a Congress every third year. In exceptional circumstances, this period may be varied by ICBEN officers to a maximum of 5 years." (Mathias Basner)
11. Proposal(s) for next Meeting, presentation of bids for Jerusalem (Norm Broner) and Belgrade (Goran Belojevic)
12. Any Other Business (definition of noise; guidelines for studies; researchgate projects)

ICBEN 2021 Business Meeting (Minutes generated by Secretary Sabine Janssen)

1. Absent: Annelies Bockstael, Jiyoung Hong, John Marsh, Adrian Fuente, Natalia Sizov, Lex Brown (with apologies), Larry Finegold, Christian Giguere, Peter Lercher, Anthony Brammer, Gerd Jansen, Jerry Tobias, Birgitta Berglund, Soames Job
Present: all of the other invitees, Charlotte Clark, Jenny Selander
2. Minutes of the last meeting: no comments
3. Matters arising from the Minutes: no issues
4. Election of officers: Mathias Basner, Mark Brink and Sabine Janssen step down from their current Officer role, having served two terms. Sabine explains why she is not a nominee for the role of President (conflict with role as policy advisor at Dutch Ministry), and the current officers nominate Mark Brink as an interim president for 2021-2023. Mark explains his objectives (reviews under umbrella of ICBEN, reshaping of the teams). Mark is then elected as new President with 94% pro and 6% undecided. Then the nominees for Vice-President present themselves: Dirk Schreckenber (continue work on harmonization, contextual factors, aims for data repository) and Michael Smith (now co-chair team 5 on sleep aspects, aims to help out with congress, public outreach on noise). Subsequently, Dirk is elected as new Vice-President with 53% of the votes. Furthermore, the election of Charlotte Clark as new Secretary was confirmed by 100% of the votes. With respect to Members at large: Truls Gjestland indicates that, after resigning as chair of team 9, he would like to 'reclaim' his status of Member at large. Since there are already 6 Members at large, the maximum allowed by the constitution, a motion to increase this number to 10 is voted on (needs 2/3 majority), and accepted by 93%. Truls is then (re-)elected as Member at large. Lex Brown has indicated he would like to keep this status. In order not to let this group become unnecessarily large, it is decided to reach out to the others if they want to remain Members at large (**action Sabine**).
5. ICBEN team structure: Mark proposes a reshaping of teams, more in line with the topics of sessions within the conference (and name them topical groups instead of teams). Discussion follows on Team 8 (Interactions, in the conference this was named Special topics) about whether it should be part of the team structure or fitted into other teams. Also, there was discussion on Team 11 (HIA), with Elise and Irene suggesting a fusion with Team 9 (Policy/economics) because it concerns applying knowledge for policy. Gunn Marit and Mikael support a separate HIA team to highlight its importance, or make it part of Team 3 (Non-auditory health effects). Kerstin remarks that the team structure might be outdated, given new developments such as multiple exposures/exposome. Mathias and Truls suggest to discuss this in a separate executive meeting, in which the new officers propose a new structure. Mark will send a doodle poll (**Action Mark**).
6. The ICBEN Team chairs elected for 2021-2023 are (... are not elected yet):
 - Team 1 (NIHL) Ravi Reddy (chair), Sofie Fredriksson (co-chair)
 - Team 2 (COM) Sarah Verhulst (chair) & ... (co-chair)
 - Team 3 (NONAUD) Elise van Kempen (chair) & Kerstin Persson Waye (co-chair)
 - Team 4 (COGN) John Marsh (chair) & Sabine Schlittmeier (co-chair)
 - Team 5 (SLEEP) Michael Smith (chair) & Jorunn Evandt (co-chair)
 - Team 6 (ANNOY) Thu Lan Nguyen (chair) & Jördis Wothge (co-chair)
 - Team 7 (LFN VIB) Norm Broner (chair) & Kristina Erdelyi (co-chair)
 - Team 8 (COMB) Mikael Ögren (chair) & Adrian Fuente (co-chair)
 - Team 9 (POLICY) ... (chair) & ... (co-chair)

7. Report on past activities: organizing conferences (Mathias thanks officers/(co-)chairs), goals were set on standardization and meta-analyses, but this is a lengthy process.
8. Website: now hosted by ETH (Zürich), taken over from earlier design (redesign is desirable, **who?**), contains proceedings and constitution, needs picture of new Officers.
9. Report on IC BEN 2021 Conference organization: Maria thanks officers for the trust to organize, feasibility for fully digital conference shown, 247 registered participants, extensive scientific program and virtual social program, extended platform keeps presentations (with subtitles in 4 weeks) and Q&A available. No final budget result yet, but ambition is to give back to IC BEN the contribution received to the conference. Facilitating factors were: access to budget and program from Zürich2017, strong institutional support, lose contact with IC BEN officers, contribution team chairs, professional congress organizer. Difficulties were: switch to digital (extra work, late final decisions and final information to participants, may have limited participation), unclarity in roles (responsibilities/mandate) between local organizers and IC BEN officers/chairs. Input for next conference: mailing list with 400+ names (consent obtained), share budget and program, early clarification of roles/responsibilities is advised, longer break between session blocks advised for digital or hybrid format.
10. No objections to timing of the next conference in 2023.
11. Presentation of IC BEN2023 bids: Jerusalem (Norm Broner); Belgrade (Goran Belojevic).
Jerusalem: supported by Israel Acoustical Association, local sponsorship (5000 US dollars), modern vs ancient aspects, security despite news (all people welcome, passports not stamped), easy to get around by public transport, green city, virtual/hybrid congress platform, conference fee 721 US dollars (includes dinner).
Belgrade: Serbia is open country, Belgrade has Turkish influences, is on the river, funky bars, night life, nice restaurants, conference all set in Crowne Plaza hotel (retro style, swimming pool, recreation areas), everything happening in one place, half an hour walking distance from inner city. Conference fee and budget are not calculated yet. Discussion starts on the choice between locations, main issues being security and political situation in Jerusalem, and lack of elaboration (in particular on budget) for Belgrade. First, a poll was done with Jerusalem, Belgrade, and Undecided (giving 33%, 47%, 20% respectively). A subsequent poll with just Jerusalem vs Belgrade gave 46 vs 53% (7 vs 8). It was therefore decided to opt for Belgrade, on the condition that the budget is clarified and approved of within the next month (**Action Goran**).
12. Any Other Business: it was decided to not have an in depth discussion on several issues brought forward: the definition of noise*; guidelines for studies; researchgate projects. These may be addressed in the same meeting as the reshaping of teams (**Action Mark**). Truls brings up one additional point: he was contacted by a family member (Bill) of Larry Finegold, who told him that Larry is in a memory care facility with dementia, would probably appreciate contact, but phone use is problematic and his laptop with contacts is stolen. Truls will compile a list of contacts from IC BEN and send it to Bill (**Action Truls**).

*Definition of noise (brought up by Daniel Fink):

The standard definition of noise, "Noise is unwanted or undesired sound," has been broadly adopted internationally but is now obsolete, because it does not recognize the many well-documented adverse effects of noise.¹ Additionally, just calling noise "unwanted sound", i.e., implying that "noise is just a nuisance", stigmatizes those who complain about noise. Desired or wanted sounds can still cause adverse effects, e.g., noise-induced hearing loss in rock musicians and those listening to their music, and unwanted noise exposure disrupts human activity and is disturbing or annoying. Annoyance causes stress² and stress has now been associated with vascular inflammation, cardiovascular disease, and increased mortality.^{3,4} It's time for a new definition of noise: Noise is unwanted and/or harmful sound."⁵