The 50th ISCEV international symposium abstract issue

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The 50th ISCEV Symposium will be celebrated in the stunning Spanish city of Valencia. The contrasting mediaeval and modern beauty of Valencia is the perfect backdrop for this special 50th anniversary. A rich and diverse programme highlights the international collaboration of scientists and clinicians across

many disciplines sharing an interest in visual electrophysiology. The scientific programme ranges from translational studies of therapeutics in animal models of genetic eye disease to innovative applications that correlate behaviour, structural and functional imaging at macro and cellular levels. The integral role of clinical visual electrophysiology in the practice of clinical medicine is brought to the fore in the popular clinical case session, which for the first time is included within the body of the symposium. This is an opportunity for participants to present their most challenging clinical cases and benefit from the cumulative experience of the ISCEV membership.

The symposium will inaugurate the new state of the art lecture auditorium of the Colegio Oficial de Médicos de Valencia. Our hosts at the Colegio Oficial de Medicos de Valencia are responsible for upholding standards and promoting ethical medical practice. The annual ISCEV Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision Course, coordinated by Professor Graham Holder, will make use of the clinical and teaching facilities of the Fundación Oftalmológica del Mediterráneo, FOM. FOM is an international research and clinical centre, which was inaugurated in 2005 with the aims of promoting scientific and technical research in ophthalmic medicine, developing new diagnostic and therapeutic techniques and becoming a required reference of all innovating ocular treatment at national and international level.

We congratulate Paul Sieving, MD, PhD, Director of NEI, National Institute of Health, USA, who

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receives the Emiko Adachi Award 2012 and will give a lecture entitled *The tortuous path of translational research: Adventures with CNTF for retinal neurodegenerative disease*. This year sees the second William W. Dawson memorial lecture entitled *From bench to bed in molecular genetics of retinal astrophysics*, presented by Professor Carmen Ayuso, Chief of Department of Medical Genetics, Head of Research Area and Scientific Director of Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria, Fundación Jiménez Díaz, and Coordinator of Spanish Network of Research on Retinal Dystrophies (EsRetNet) and Fundación Jiménez Díaz (IIS-FJD). Professor Javier Romero will give the keynote host lecture entitled ‘Use of Electroretinography in animals’.

The main symposium topics are (1) Experimental and animal models in visual electrophysiology and (2) Electrophysiology and correlates with diseases, and more than 100 communications will be presented over

12 oral and 3 poster sessions in the 4 days of the symposium. We will present the ISCEV travel awards to young scientists whose abstracts and needs were of particular merit, and we are delighted that over 30 young scientists have applied for the prestigious Dotd award. Overall, the abstract authors list acknowledges the contributions of more than 500 authors representing more than 30 countries.

Between scientific sessions, the delegates will have excellent opportunities to explore and experience the charm of Valencia with organised walking tours through the old and modern parts of the city, a reflective supper by a lake, a lively International Olympics on the beach and a farewell banquet with golden sunset overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, a perfect ending to the 50th ISCEV symposium.

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